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Cultural Heritage

C O U R I E R



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

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Rebirth of the Hotel North Bend

by Joy Sears, SHPO Restoration Specialist

Back in the very early 1920s, there was an idea floating around North Bend, Oregon to build a hotel in order to promote a bank. The thinking was that by constructing a luxurious multi-story hotel it would not only provide a highly visible landmark for the community, it would also maximize the visual recognition of the First National Bank.

Dream became reality—up went the Hotel North Bend. Completed in 1922, it still stands today at the corner of Virginia and Sherman Avenues in the middle of downtown North Bend.

The Hotel North Bend is a Tudor Revival building designed by John E. Tourtellotte, an architect from Portland, who also designed five other buildings in the Coos Bay and North Bend area. He separated the two establishments by locating the bank’s entrance (with its now-missing grand eagle over the doorway) on Sherman Avenue, and the hotel’s marquee entrance uphill on Virginia Avenue. Said to be “probably the finest structure outside Portland,” Tourtellotte’s design called for solid reinforced concrete.

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Oregon's Sesquicentennial – Time to Get Involved

by James Hamrick, State Agency Liaison, Oregon 150

Can you pronounce “sesquicentennial” real fast? I can now, after having forced those six syllables out of my mouth since August 2004, when Governor Kulongoski charged the Oregon Heritage Commission/Oregon Parks and Recreation Department with planning and coordination of the 2009 Oregon Sesquicentennial.

Initial planning efforts between November 2004 and May 2005 resulted in a statewide gathering that was held at Willamette University. The outcome of those efforts was the creation of a Strategic Plan Outline, completed in June 2005. The concepts contained within the plan, along with the results of a statewide “listening session” effort and online survey concluding November 1, will guide the Oregon 150 Board of Directors in creating a structure and work plan for the statewide commemoration.

The Oregon 150 non-profit went into business on July 1, 2006, with a five-person interim board. Members include Sen. Betsy Johnson, the Hon. Barbara Roberts, Todd Davidson, Jack McGowan, and Chet Orloff. Barbara Allen is the Executive Director. In addition to these members, the Governor has named 25 other Oregon citizens to the board, representing all geographic areas and interests of the state.

By early 2007, the board will have completed a time-lined strategic plan for the commemoration, currently scheduled to begin on or about February 14, 2009 and end at the close of the Oregon State Fair in Fall 2009. The implementation and scope of the plan will be predicated on the ability of Oregon 150 to secure additional donations from private or other sources. Oregon 150 will seek input from and share information with a variety of stakeholders including the general public, and tribal and local governments. The Board will also create a commemoration tool kit that will provide a consistent sesquicentennial message throughout the state, and will work with local or regional sesquicentennial interest groups to promote their activities. The Board will sponsor as well as sanction sesquicentennial events and activities. Depending on the success of fundraising activity, the Board will also award grants to governments and organizations in support of their sesquicentennial activities.

Responses to the online survey has been excellent, and in the listening sessions we have heard a lot of interest in land use, energy, sustainability, education and relating stories. We hope you are interested in participating in Oregon 150 because 2009 is not that far away. This commemoration of statehood is an opportunity for all Oregonians to learn and reflect upon our rich heritage and diverse cultures; understand our current challenges and opportunities; renew our commitment to local communities and Oregon's future; and instill in all of us a lasting sense of pride, connectedness and responsibility to each other and out state.

For additional Oregon 150 information, please visit www.oregon150.org or contact James Hamrick, James.Hamrick@state.or.us or Barbara Allen, ballen@oregon150.org.



Sauvie Island's "Sunken Village" – A Special Place Forever Preserved?

by David Bogan

Located north of Portland on Sauvie Island, the Sunken Village archaeological site—a National Historic Landmark—contains the remains of a Native American settlement dating from 1250 to 1750 AD. The people who lived here most likely spoke the Chinookan language and, according to a National Park Service report, were a part of “one of the highest population densities” of the Lower Columbia River area during pre-contact times; they “practiced a successful, complex hunter-gatherer economy that supported densely occupied villages and extensive trade networks.”

There is scarce evidence of the people who once occupied this area. The existence of Sunken Village was reported in an Oregon Archaeological Society newsletter from the 1950s, and it is known that looting of the site has been occurring at least since the early 20th century and perhaps much earlier. Most of what still remains today is oddly protected by the same thing that is slowly but surely destroying it—water. Archaeologists refer to Sunken Village as being a “wet site,” an area of terrestrial, marsh-like land where underlying cultural material is protected by an anaerobic environment. However, that protection is being incrementally inundated by the devastating effects of a leaking levee.

The constant erosion of an agricultural irrigation levee, built along the Multnomah River Channel that flows on one side of Sauvie Island, has allowed significant seepage of water surrounding the Sunken Village site, which is causing any remains of the site to wash away. Damage from the eroding levee, in addition to the looting that has taken place over time, prompted the National Park Service to designate Sunken Village as “threatened”. Yet, in another ironic twist, that designation may soon change because Sunken Village is slated to be buried by tons of rock, and this means that it should thwart both looters and the physics of nature, thus preserving the site for many, many years, if not forever.



Recent archaeological “wet site excavation” have uncovered woven fiber baskets and stone tools at the Sunken Village site, which is threatened by an eroding levee on Sauvie Island.

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OREGON'S RECENT *National Register* LISTINGS

Criteria for National Register Eligibility

In order to be considered eligible for the National Register, a property must be fifty years of age or older. (There are exceptions to this rule if it can be demonstrated that the property has exceptional importance.) Fifty years is a general estimate of the time needed to develop historical perspective and to determine significance. Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects are significant if they possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and associations, and

A. are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Marx-Schaefers House

Eugene, Lane County

The Marx-Schaefers House, constructed in 1911-1912, is listed under Criterion C for its Craftsman-style architecture in the Jefferson neighborhood of the City of Eugene. Well maintained and relatively unaltered, it retains all of its original architectural detailing, both inside and out. It boasts decorative details that demonstrate the great attention to style and construction that went into this house. Within its setting, it is a particularly fine example of a building type and architectural style that came to characterize much of Eugene and has had great influence on the city's sense of place.



Deidrich Building

Multiple Property Submission

Stayton, Marion County

The commercial and residential building at 195 N 3rd Avenue in Stayton constructed in the 1912 for Peter Deidrich, is listed under Criterion A for its contribution to Stayton's main street development. The Deidrich Building is one of several concrete block buildings constructed on the west side of 3rd Avenue between 1908 and 1916. Built to house a retail hardware store and a complex of rental spaces, the warehouse portion of the warehouse store became the Stayton area's first authorized Ford Motor car sales and service agency in 1913.



Wheeler Ridge Japanese Bombing Site

Brookings, Curry County

The Wheeler Ridge Japanese Bombing Site is listed under Criterion A for its associations with military events in World War II as the location of an incendiary bomb explosion on September 9, 1942. The site also holds symbolic value in its expression of a later generation's assessment of the past. With its period of significance focused on the year 1942, the Wheeler Ridge Japanese Bomb Site is significant in the areas of Military and Social History.

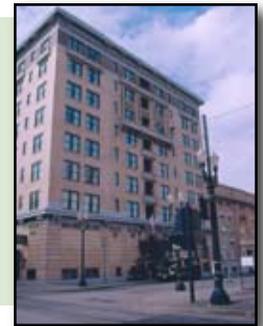


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OREGON'S RECENT *National Register* LISTINGS . . . continued from page 4

Mallory Hotel
Portland, Multnomah County

The 1912 eight-story Mallory Hotel was designed by architect Hans Hanselmann for property owner, Rufus Mallory, a former Oregon Congressman, political leader and noted barrister. The building is listed under Criterion A as a largely intact building type, specifically a family-oriented hotel in downtown Portland. It is one of a small handful of superior hotel properties developed in the boom-era after the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition. In particular, the hotel was marketed uniquely as a “family” hotel in order to secure non-transient residents.



Poultry Building and Incubator House
Corvallis, Benton County

The 1913 Poultry Building is listed under Criterion C and is a rare example of how a regionally prominent master architect, John Virginus Bennes, integrated contemporary architectural styles to transform an 1893 Italianate-style building on the campus of Oregon Agricultural College, now Oregon State University. In addition, it meets Criteria Consideration B for moved properties. The Incubator House, a separate building on the site of the Poultry Building, is considered a contributing resource.



The Wilder Apartments
Eugene, Lane County

The Wilder Apartments building is among the best-preserved examples of an apartment house constructed in Eugene in the 1920s and is listed under Criterion A. It is one of the few surviving examples of the “new modern apartment: constructed in response to the housing needs of the community” during that time period. Although not being nominated under Criterion C for its association with H.E. Wilder as a local contractor/builder, it is the most intact example of his work remaining in the city. It retains a very high degree of historic integrity, continues to be used for its original purpose, and meets the criteria and registration requirements set forth in the Residential Architecture of Eugene Multiple Property Submission.



Oregon Cultural Trust Grants Fund Statewide Heritage Projects

The Oregon Cultural Trust recently announced its competitive [Cultural Development Grants](#), which included support for nineteen statewide projects relating to historic preservation and heritage.

The Oregon Cultural Trust is an innovative, statewide private-public program raising significant new funds to invest in Oregon’s arts, humanities and heritage. Donors to the Trust are eligible for a 100 percent tax credit for contributions of up to \$500 for individuals, \$1,000 for couples filing jointly and \$2,500 for corporations. To motivate Oregonians to increase direct giving to cultural groups, Trust donors must also make matching gifts to one or more for 1,200 cultural nonprofits in order to qualify for the credit. All gifts must be received by Dec. 31 each year and can be made online. For more information about the Oregon Cultural Trust, visit www.culturaltrust.org, or call 503-986-0088.

REBIRTH OF THE HOTEL NORTH BEND . . . continued from page 1

Of course, the First National Bank took over a majority of the first floor with the remainder being lobby space. The upper floors housed 68 “modern” rooms with hot and cold running water and great views from every room.

Over the years, the hotel fell into disrepair having been hard hit by the Great Depression and World War II, and it really never recovered. The bank itself suffered great problems and eventually closed during the Great Depression.

Once the bank dissolved, that portion of the building was divided into two separate commercial spaces which housed various businesses over the years. The luxury hotel eventually became a low-income housing complex on the upper floors.



Lobby area of the historic Hotel North Bend

In the 1990s, the interior of most of the fourth floor and the entire fifth floor were demolished for new development, but that never happened. The mezzanine level which is not visible from the exterior currently houses two apartments. Most of the existing units are just one hotel room with small bathrooms adjacent and kitchens down the hall. There are 30 relatively small units in use currently.

Although the building has long suffered from lack of maintenance and is a ghost of its former self, things are looking up. Starting in January 2007, the hotel will be rehabilitated by the North Bend Apartments Limited Partnership into 29 low- and moderate income housing units; the former first floor bank will remain two separate commercial spaces. Two or three hotel rooms will be combined to make studio or one-bedroom units with kitchens and bathrooms.

To help make this Hotel North Bend project possible, the North Bend Apartments Limited Partnership is currently taking advantage of Oregon’s Special Assessment property tax program and the Federal Rehabilitation tax credit program, both administered by the State Historic Preservation Office. As of September 2006, the hotel is the only building in North Bend to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Coos Bay Bridge which connects Highway 101 to North Bend to the north is also listed in the National Register. Hopes are high that the Hotel North Bend project will spur more such redevelopment in this growing community of 9,620.

Editor’s Note: Look for another article by Joy Sears in the next issue of Cultural Heritage Courier that will present some interesting statistical data on the SHPO’s Special Assessment and Federal Rehabilitation tax programs.

Heritage Programs Events Calendar

Courier readers can access the [Events Calendar](#) link to our website to find listings of activities the Heritage Programs Division is directly involved in—such as meeting information for the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries and Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council. Also, check this link for updates on the Oregon Sesquicentennial as well as other historic preservation and heritage related events.

SAUVIE ISLAND'S SUNKEN VILLAGE . . . continued from page 3

Several years ago, the Sauvie Island Drainage Improvement District (SIDID) proposed to stabilize the levee by placing rip-rap along the river channel's bank and thereby reduce erosion. Now a reality, the project work is scheduled to begin in early October of this year, which gave archaeologists a relatively short duration of time to test and salvage a small portion of the site. Extensive excavation of the site before the stabilization project started was not possible due to the danger of the levee failing with winter rains soon to begin as well of a lack of funds.

In September, archaeological wet site excavations were conducted under a collaborative effort by Dr. Dale Croes of South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia, Washington, and a Portland firm, Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc. The site excavation was also monitored and assisted by representatives from several Oregon Native American tribes.

Unique and fragile artifacts were uncovered during this recent excavation. Items that were found, such as woven fiber baskets and stone tools as well as acorn and seed foodstuffs, will provide valuable information helping researchers gain insight into the lifeways of the exceptional hunter-gatherers who lived here so long ago. Descendants of these people no doubt interacted with members of the Corps of Discovery in 1805.

As the levee stabilization project proceeds, precautions will be taken to protect the site from the damaging impact of tons of stone. A layer of sand wrapped in a permeable, high-strength synthetic fabric will cover the site followed by the rip rap boulders. The sand-fabric layer will allow water in—again creating an anaerobic preservation “chamber” that will encapsulate most of the site—while resisting movement of the earth below from the crushing weight of the boulders on top.



In this sequence of photographs a Native American basket is slowly revealed during the recent “wet site excavation” at the Sunken Village site. Instead of the usual excavation tools of a trowel or pick, this artifact was carefully brought to the surface using a garden hose and spray nozzle. Laboratory tests will tell archaeologists what type of fiber was used to make the basket and its age.

(photos for this article by Dennis Griffin)

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Heritage IN THE Parks

Sharing History from Two Perspectives at Fort Yamhill

by James Little, OPRD Interpretive Coordinator

After several years of consultation and planning with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) officially dedicated its newest park, [Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area](#), on September 9.

One aspect of that joint effort was the creation of eleven outdoor heritage interpretive panels designed to help visitors learn about the importance of the Fort Yamhill site—why the Fort was built and eventually closed, and to have a better appreciation for the cultural history of the Grand Ronde people.

Fort Yamhill was established in 1856 to protect the Grand Ronde Agency and Reservation. It provided a buffer between the Indians and settlers living within the reservation boundaries. The fort was located at the edge of the reservation, where it could regulate the flow of traffic entering and leaving the area. Fort Yamhill continued to operate during the Civil War and closed in 1866.

The interpretive panels “speak” in two voices telling a story about the fort from both the perspective of the soldiers stationed there and the Native Americans who lived nearby. Using original icons for both entities, the panels trace the fort’s story from these separate viewpoints. Some panels feature quotes from soldiers’ journals that connect visitors to the daily life of those who lived here. There are also messages about stewardship and the importance of preservation, which hopefully will prompt park visitors to notify park personnel should they discover any artifacts at the site.

The color palette and visual features of the panels reflect the era—both tribal and military. Historic maps help transport visitors back in time. Subtle backgrounds feature green wool army blankets, blue wool from military uniforms, cattails from weavings, cedar skirt plant fibers, and roughhewn wood grain. Original artwork depicts life in those times.

Heritage interpretive panels help support OPRD’s management goals, communicate resource protection issues, offer on-site interpretation, and provide images of what the Fort looked like in the past. And, as a bonus, these panels are on duty around the clock.



Interpretive panels at the Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area provide perspectives from both U.S. Army soldiers and Native Americans.

Hats Off to Certified Local Governments

“CLGs are the best preservationists around,” says Sarah Jalving who has recently been named as coordinator of the Certified Local Government (CLG) program at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Jalving, having worked previously as one of SHPO’s Section 106 above-ground specialists, is excited about the possibilities that open up when a local government receives certification and thereby qualifies to receive matching grants from SHPO.

“This program allows the SHPO to interact with broad based, grass-roots preservation efforts in ways that differ from some of our other programs,” continues Jalving. “Our CLG grants result in National Register nominations, design guidelines, and ‘bricks and mortar’ projects.” Other projects that CLG grant funding can support include public education activities (such as plaques, walking tour booklets and websites); updating historic preservation ordinances; and preparing design guidelines, architectural and engineering studies and plans for rehabilitating historic properties.

The CLG program is designed to assist county and city governments create and promote historic preservation programs and projects close to home. Becoming certified means adopting a local preservation ordinance to protect cultural resources, by forming a historic preservation commission to administer the local preservation ordinance, and asking that the CLG comment on National Register properties within the local jurisdiction.

Three Oregon communities have recently become CLGs—North Bend, Baker City, and West Linn. Oregon CLGs received over \$200,000 in grant monies for local preservation work in the [2006-2007 CLG grant cycle](#).

Heritage Programs Staff Profile



Oregon State Parks archaeologist Nancy Nelson greets two visitors at this year’s Oregon State Fair Heritage Programs display.

Nancy Nelson is the new State Parks archaeologist and most recently served as the cultural resources manager for the Ak-Chin Indian Community in Arizona. Nelson will be in charge of archaeological review of all ground-disturbing activities within OPRD boundaries through the Cultural Resources Clearance process; assist and coordinate with OPRD project managers, engineers and planners on cultural resource management issues relating to construction projects and the master planning process; plan and organize OPRD’s annual Archaeology Training Conference; and consult with all tribes that claim cultural affiliation to lands managed by OPRD.



Archaeologist Mollie Manion tracks ODOT highway projects and helps maintain the SHPO ArcMap Geographic Information System (GIS) database.

Mollie Manion has recently joined SHPO as the archaeologist for reviewing and processing Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) projects. Her duties include issuing archaeological permits; reviewing archaeological reports for Section 106 projects; serving as a liaison for ODOT projects; and assisting other SHPO archaeologists maintain the GIS database. Prior to joining the SHPO, Manion excavated sites at several historic state parks including Willamette Mission, Fort Yamhill and Champoege.

Destination: Main Street, Baker City

Baker City's historic Main Street has attracted several new businesses in recent years and several property owners of downtown buildings are busy with interior refurbishing as non-profit Historic Baker City, Inc. (HBC) gets ready for another round of Destination Baker City façade restoration projects.

Courier editor David Bogan had an opportunity to talk with three downtown business owners earlier this year—Beverly Calder owns BELLA, a gourmet grocery and kitchen store featuring fine wines and specialty coffees; Carolyn Kulog along with her husband Tom are the proprietors of Betty's Books, its shelves stocked with lots of local and regional history in addition to general reading; and Andrew Bryan, who with his wife Ann own Mad Matilda's & Sane Jane's, a coffee house adjoining a shop full of gifts, art and vintage items.

Courier: Each of you have established your businesses in downtown historic buildings. Did you consider another type of location, say in a shopping center or a place in a newer section of Baker City?

Beverly Calder: I had a similar store located in McMinnville several years ago, a community that was attractive to me because of its historic ambience. In 1993, when I first turned onto Main Street here in Baker City, I was immediately impressed with the wide street and wonderful historic architecture. I knew I wanted to live here, but it was four years later that I decided to open a retail business on Main Street. I really love the "human scale" of this downtown.

Carolyn Kulog: We really fell into the location, as my husband and I took over the business from my mother who founded the store and chose to locate downtown. She has always been an advocate of historic preservation and was instrumental in the formation of Historic Baker City, Inc., as well as being one of the first building owners to participate in the facade restoration project. In any case, we wouldn't trade the location for anywhere else in town.

Andrew Bryan: Both my wife, Ann—who is originally from Baker City—and I are drawn to old buildings and houses. When we moved here nearly three years ago from Boise, we decided that a downtown location in one of the historic buildings had several advantages. Our coffee house caters to downtown shoppers and we've found that each of the different types of downtown businesses has really created a magnet for all of us as store owners. I hear positive feedback relating to the vitality of downtown...of people coming and going.



An ongoing façade restoration program in Baker City's historic downtown has benefited several Main Street businesses.



Main Street business owners: (left) Ann and Andrew Bryan; (center) Beverly Calder; (right) Tom and Carolyn Kulog

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DESTINATION: MAIN STREET, BAKER CITY . . . continued from page 10

Beverly Calder: It's really about critical mass. Other stores definitely help each other, keeping downtown vibrant and active. I'm seeing more people riding bikes and I think that foot traffic is definitely getting better.

Carolyn Kulog: There's another reason that we're happy about our location...we are able to live upstairs and we can walk five or ten minutes to many of the services that we depend on.

Andrew Bryan: We also live in the upstairs portion of our building.

Courier: Historic Baker City (HBC) is a non-profit organization that works closely with the city and merchants—store owners like yourselves, and I know that each of you have been associated with HBC in some way. Given that HBC has played a major role in the success of downtown, what are some of the ways that the relationship has worked between your businesses and HBC? And along the same lines, what advice would you give to other community leaders that have an interest in preserving downtown historic buildings for adaptive re-use, especially for economic development?

Carolyn Kulog: The historic façade restoration project was initiated by HBC. As part of that project, interpretive plaques were placed on store fronts, and that adds to interest in the history of the buildings and downtown. Our building was built in 1888, and originally sold dry goods and liquor. The Bedrock Democrat (newspaper) was published upstairs for awhile.

Beverly Calder: HBC has followed a model similar to the (? or, is officially a) “Main Street” program*, which includes historic preservation as one of the areas in its four point approach to downtown revitalization. For example, the efforts of HBC have made a huge difference in the way we as a group can market downtown businesses.

Andrew Bryan: My advice about becoming a commercial historic district is that it provides the structure needed to provide an image of what's advantageous. Also, HBC has gotten people involved...grant money has come through, although sometimes the biggest challenge is financing to get things done. I would encourage people to visit Baker City to meet with HBC.

Beverly Calder: I'll also mention that I do a great deal of direct mail advertising to most of the towns and communities that surround Baker City. My store offers a lot of things that these communities just don't have, and this brings people to Baker to shop at BELLA and to do other things. I have customers from out of the area, from Boise, who seem to enjoy shopping in downtown Baker City...even people from Bend are coming here.

Courier: What about Baker City becoming a Certified Local Government? Do you think that this will happen here?

Andrew Bryan: No doubt that CLG status would mean more access to possible grant funding. It seems like a good thing from an economic development perspective.

Beverly Calder: There's the funding and that certainly can go a long way toward helping preserve the historic character of Baker City and other similar places. I think the CLG designation will be approved here.

(Editor's Note: Since the Courier had this conversation with these downtown business owners, Baker City has in fact become a Certified Local Government. Learn more about the National Trust's [“Main Street Four-Point Approach”](#).)

Thoughts on Historic Preservation in New Orleans after Katrina

Each year the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) offers travel scholarships to individuals who are active in historic preservation and have identified a conference or workshop that they would like to attend in order to gain more practical knowledge for themselves and to share with others after returning to their local community.

Five \$500 [Elisabeth Walton Potter Historic Preservation Scholarships](#) were awarded to four University of Oregon historic preservation program students and their team leader who wished to serve in post-Katrina New Orleans as volunteer members on one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Disaster Assessment Teams.

The following excerpts from are from reports submitted to the SHPO by Potter award recipients upon returning to Oregon after their volunteer experience in New Orleans (Read more about their trip in [Editor's Notebook](#) *Cultural Heritage Courier* No. 2).

Sarah Helwick

Sunday, March 26, 2006 - As our plane approached our final descent into Louis Armstrong International Airport, I tried to keep my expectations to a minimum. As we passed over the vast marshland into the more populated areas, I noticed the blue of the tarps of roofs dotting the landscape. It was the first evidence that I encountered of the vast destruction of New Orleans.

That evening, we decided to get dinner in the French Quarter or Vieux Carré district. It was business as usual in the vibrant district. Café du Monde served hot, sugary beignets, Mardi Gras stores sold beads and obscene t-shirts, and tourists took in the sights. From all the activity, it was hard to believe that a massive storm that caused the sheer destruction and the unspeakable loss of human life had hit this area. It was quite a contrast to what I would experience the next day in the Lower Ninth Ward, just minutes from the Vieux Carré district.

Liz Carter (team leader and historic preservation consultant)

Having returned from New Orleans for the third time since Hurricane Katrina, I continue my ongoing inner debate about what preservation really means. Living in Eugene, Oregon—a community in which preservation is often deemed a breach of personal property rights, an obstacle to development, or of little value because of our young history in Oregon—it is difficult to maintain a positive attitude about the poor public perception of heritage.

Going to New Orleans changes all of that. New Orleans is steeped in history; the historic architecture is not only a fabulous collection of years of input from a variety of cultural groups. It is the framework within which other cultural heritage is nurtured. The food, music, language, personal histories, education and spiritual traditions all percolate in the wonderful, colorful context of historic architecture in New Orleans. But the loss of any one of these components would cause the unraveling of the rich tapestry of life and heritage in that place.



A devastated block of the historic Lower Ninth Ward in New Orleans

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THOUGHTS ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN NEW ORLEANS AFTER KATRINA . . . continued from page 12

Sarah Hahn

On our tour of the city, we encountered countless empty houses, neighborhoods, office buildings, restaurants and cafes. We found that entire neighborhoods had been left to their own (meager) resources to prove that a critical mass of residents would come back despite the fact that large sections of the city were still without water, gas, electricity and many other basic necessities required to accommodate residents who wanted to return and rebuild. Through our tours, the work we were able to do for a Holy Cross homeowner and the Preservation Resource Center, and various lectures and public meetings that we were able to attend, the week proved to be an eye-opening experience in many respects.

Sarah Helwick

Monday, March 27, 2006 - The morning of our first full day in New Orleans was spent at the Preservation Resource Center, a local preservation non-profit that provides a range of preservation services in New Orleans. After learning about the architectural history of New Orleans, we went over our projects for the week. We had two: To create measured drawings and floor plan suggestions for a shotgun house in the Holy Cross district and to assist a Holy Cross homeowner with cleaning out his home. The amount of damage in the Lower Ninth Ward is unbelievable and hard to absorb. Vacant lots where homes used to stand are scattered throughout the entire neighborhood. Seven months after the storm the once vibrant community is deserted, lifeless, and silent.

Jennifer Flathman

The staff of the Preservation Resource Center was tireless in their commitment to helping save the historic neighborhoods of New Orleans. Exhaustion showed on their faces but they graciously took the time to explain their work to visiting students, to tirelessly answer the phones, to attend events in the evening long after most office workers would be at home with their families.

What inspired this level of commitment? This was about more than keeping aluminum siding off National Register properties. There were also aspects of the work of the PRC that were very familiar. Preservationists around the world are concerned with issues like: "Is this column detail in keeping with the original façade of the shotgun we are restoring?", "Do you need to replace plaster that has mold on it?", "How much fabric can you replace in kind and still have a building with integrity?", etc. These are not the issues that drive the staff at the PRC, nor are they the issues that drive most preservationists. The urgency of the work of the PRC staff was certainly higher but the core motivation is not so different from that of all preservationists. While many of us love historic buildings for their aesthetic beauty, I think what motivates most preservationists is the desire to help people connect to the places and spaces important to their lives.

Liz Carter

The residents of New Orleans understand the importance of their heritage, and they value it. Without it, New Orleans would be just another city, moving toward homogenization and losing contact with its unique past. Post-Katrina, it seems that many residents see their heritage as their saving grace, the thing that will help pull them out of their current untenable state of paralysis.

Jennifer L. Flathman

The more time I spent in New Orleans the more disjointed I felt. It was impossible to fulfill my desire to understand the situation and formulate a balanced, objective opinion. Understandably, no one seemed to know how to respond to

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THOUGHTS ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN NEW ORLEANS AFTER KATRINA . . . continued from page 13

the situation. The people I encountered were mentally and physically devastated. In everyone's eyes, I saw fear and fatigue regardless of if their home was still standing and their family in one place.

Sarah Helwick

Wednesday, March 29, 2006 - Wednesday was filled with hard work and fried okra. We assisted homeowner Alton Remble with tearing out damaged lath and plaster. We enjoyed a lunch of fried chicken, corn and fried okra. My impression of the Holy Cross neighborhood was that it was deserted and lifeless. However, as we worked on Alton's house that day, neighbors came by and drove around the block. Slowly, the neighborhood was coming back.

Friday, March 31, 2006 - We continued to assist Alton on Friday morning. We wished that we could have helped him

all day and the small amount of work we did for him seemed miniscule. But, I realized that New Orleans is not going to be rebuilt in one broad act. Rather, it will be revitalized by one small step at a time.

Sara Hahn

Though we were able to become relatively familiar with the diverse historic building types that characterize the city, it quickly became clear that the need for preservation in post-Katrina New Orleans went far beyond the built environment. A broad combination of the populace, cuisine, architecture and music contribute to the unique sense of place in New Orleans, a city that has endured for almost 300 years. After recognizing this, one begins to consider the multifaceted challenge of preserving the culture of this place, of which architecture is a significant, yet not an isolated aspect. The multitude of unresolved issues, questions and uncertainties in New Orleans far outweigh the answers, but I am confident that historic preservation will play a considerable role in the revival of this devastated city.

I left New Orleans with a new perspective on preservation, and a renewed belief in the positive social impacts that it can have in even the most severe situations.



SHPO's Potter Historic Preservation Scholarship recipients take a break for lunch with Alton Remble outside his Holy Cross neighborhood home.

If you are interested in finding out more about the ongoing preservation and related relief efforts in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, here are some websites to visit:

<http://www.mississippiheritage.com/HurricaneKatrina.html#KatrinaDamagePhotos>

<http://www.katrinaaction.org/takeaction>

www.heritageconservation.net/

www.nomrf.org/index.html

SAUVIE ISLAND'S SUNKEN VILLAGE . . . continued from page 7

The project has involved consultation with the Army Corps of Engineers, the State Historic Preservation Office, the National Park Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Sauvie Island Drainage Improvement District, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Sauvie Island History

It's been over 200 years since the Lewis and Clark Expedition encountered an island sitting at the mouth of the Willamette River (what they called the Multnomah) near the confluence of that river with the mighty Columbia. The land form was recorded in their journals as Wapato Island, after the name given by native Multnomah Indians for wild potatoes that could be found there in abundance.

The island was later called "Sauvie's Island" named for French-Canadian landowner Laurent Sauvie, who was a Hudson's Bay Company overseer of island dairy farms and a supplier of other goods to nearby Fort Vancouver.

Winter flooding of parts of the island continually enriched the soil and this, in addition to excellent hunting and fishing, attracted Oregon Trail settlers in the mid-19th century. The historic Bybee-Howell House was built during this settlement period and still stands today on the western edge of Sauvie Island.

A dike system constructed by the Army Corp of Engineers in the 1930s sought to control the seasonal floods and this attracted more settlement. By 1950, a bridge connecting Sauvie Island to the mainland invited even more dwellers not to mention a plethora of visitors seeking all sorts of outdoor recreation.

Today, over 12,000 acres of Sauvie Island is set aside as a wildlife preserve, managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, where hunting and fishing is allowed along with excellent bird watching and hiking areas. And, the island's agricultural tradition is still going strong; rich farm acreage dotting the land yields an annual bounty of fruits and vegetables.



Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Roger Roper takes a close look at the historic Bybee-Howell house on Sauvie Island. The house was built during an era of pioneer settlement in Oregon in the mid-1800s.

Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Retrospective

by Kyle Jansson

*"much rejoiced that we have the Expedition Completed
and now we look for boarding in Town and wait for our Settlement
and then we intend to return to our native homes
to See our parents once more as we have been So long from them"*

- from the journal of Sgt. John Ordway
September 23, 1806

More than 10 years after its planning began the final activities of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial took place this spring in Oregon, a culmination of efforts by thousands of individuals, businesses, government agencies at all levels, tribal governments and nonprofit organizations.

"Oregon's bicentennial commemoration can best be described as a cooperative effort between—the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial in Oregon (LCBO), public agencies, programming partners, historical organizations, funders and a myriad of volunteers," says LCBO executive director Barbara Allen.

Bicentennial leaders count several successes from the efforts: the creation of the Lewis and Clark National and State Historical Parks, the creation of the Fort to Sea Trail, raising public awareness of the profound impact Lewis and Clark had on the nation, new or renovated visitor facilities, and the highly successful signature event in Clatsop County, "Destination: The Pacific."

There were numerous other successes as well. The Oregon Historical Society hosted and enhanced the national Lewis and Clark Bicentennial exhibit that attracted tens of thousands of visitors who gazed at historic objects such as the expedition's journals and learned new aspects of the expedition. More than 20 organizations from Astoria to Joseph received grants from LCBO for smaller projects, and successfully completed them. Numerous community educational events focused on the expedition and its times.

There are a number of legacies that will continue past the end of the bicentennial, but high on the list is the importance of involvement and cooperation of Oregon's Native American tribes. They told their stories of interaction with the Corps, as well as the long-term impacts this contact had on their communities. These stories seemed to have a profound impact on the public, which had primarily focused on the expedition's accounts for nearly two centuries. According to Allen, LCBO also supported tribal cultural preservation programs, exhibits, and commemorative activities.

The bicentennial was full of surprises and challenges, among them the accidental burning of the replica of Fort Clatsop, the popularity of the Lewis and Clark Explorer Train, the large number of Lewis and Clark buffs, and the way private firms, individuals and foundations embraced projects where governmental funding often was limited.

"I hope most of the Oregonians who were engaged in this commemoration will be spurred to actively participate in [Oregon's statehood sesquicentennial](#) in 2009," said Allen.