

No. 1
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2007

Cultural Heritage

C O U R I E R



Nature
HISTORY
Discovery

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A church built in 1889 became the location for the Corvallis Arts Center, one of the first Oregon properties to be listed in the National Register.

Oregon SHPO marks its 40th year

by Roger Roper, OPRD Assistant Director, Heritage Programs

Happy birthday to us! The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office turns 40 this year. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorized state programs, and most states—Oregon included—followed up in 1967 with initial organizing and staffing.

The first years were spent conducting the statewide survey, according to long-time SHPO employee Elisabeth Walton Potter. That effort generated the first National Register listings in 1971. The very first property designated was the Fort Yamhill site in Polk County. Seven Oregon sites had already been designated National Historic Landmarks in 1966 as part of a national effort, separate from the National Register program as we know it. The first State Historic Preservation Officer (known as the State Liaison Officer then) was the state highway engineer; SHPO was part of the Highway Department until 1990.

Four decades of historic preservation effort have helped preserve thousands of buildings throughout the state. Of course, SHPO hasn't done it alone.

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The landscape of Oregon's heritage

by David Bogan, Editor, Cultural Heritage Courier

This issue of the *Courier* is devoted entirely to introducing you—our many and diverse customers—to Heritage Programs. Since May is Historic Preservation Month with celebrations taking place in urban and rural communities all across the country and 2007 is the year that the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office will turn 40, we want to provide you with an overview of Heritage Programs.

Two things come to mind as we invite you to learn more about us. First, preservation whether in the context of caring for irreplaceable examples of our historic built environment, or protecting fragile archaeological sites, or taking time to record oral histories from people who may be the very last links with a particular piece of our shared culture—these and other activities have a common theme: a search for information about our past that can be added to the never ending story called Oregon heritage.

The second thing that springs to mind is the concept of heritage stewardship. The heritage community is made up of many motivated people; it's about their actions, and hard work. We in Heritage Programs try to respond to the interests of those dedicated individuals and groups, providing what assistance we have available to help meet the needs that arise from the planning and implementation of projects large and small.



Passing under the National Register-listed Union Street railroad bridge at Salem, paddlers on the Willamette River Trail view the landscape of Oregon's culture and history from an atypical perspective. Plans are in the works to convert the historic bridge into a path for pedestrians and bicyclists.

We also want to emphasize that our work in Heritage Programs is done in support of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's mission statement—to *provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations*—as well as helping achieve several goals in our agency's strategic plan called Target 2014, a document in which historic preservation and Oregon's heritage are integral parts.

From the pages that follow, we hope that you will get a better idea about the scope of Heritage Programs and how each program functions. All of us here take a lot of pride in the work we do; we strive to match the pride you have for your communities' cultural resources whatever they may be. Together we are surveying Oregon's heritage landscape, identifying its significant parts, seeking ways to capture its essence, and striving to keep it intact.

[NOTE: To save paper and significantly reduce printing costs, the *Courier* is designed to be read online as a PDF, accessed from our website www.oregonheritage.org. Thus, the underlined words indicate handy web links to additional information.]

OREGON SHPO MARKS ITS 40TH YEAR . . . continued from page 1

Local and statewide non-profit organizations, universities, design and construction professionals, volunteers, local governments, state and federal agencies, and private property owners have all played key roles in preserving Oregon's historic and cultural sites.

This round-numbered anniversary sort of snuck up on us, so we haven't planned any major celebratory events. We'll just continue to deliver our programs in a professional and effective manner.

As the current SHPO staff, we have a commendable legacy to build on. We're committed to making the next decade a memorable and successful chapter in the SHPO story. It's a story that will include many new faces. As you'll note from the following articles, several new staff members have joined us recently (six in the last year alone). They're talented, energetic, and fully committed to the cause.

SHPO may be middle-aged, but it's still vibrant—and even growing.



Governor Tom McCall at the 1971 swearing in ceremony for three members of the first State Historic Preservation Advisory Committee. Left to right: R.L. Porter, State Liaison Officer; Committee members Thomas Vaughn, Lewis L. McArthur, and Wallace K. Huntington; Governor McCall and his assistant, Ron Schmidt.

We are Heritage Programs

by Christine Curran, Heritage Programs Manager

In recent years, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been joined by several other heritage-related entities to form Heritage Programs, a divisional unit of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Today, the Heritage Programs staff numbers 21, and while a great deal of the work we do still originates on paper, we are steadily converting much of this data to 21st-century digital technologies for easier organization and more efficient retrieval in an effort to provide better services for Oregonians as well as other state and federal agencies.

Most of the activities within Heritage Programs are specific to SHPO, and most of its programs are a product of the federal government. In terms of a philosophy, our agency has a choice: we can run these preservation programs as flat bureaucratic exercises, or we can run them as creative resource hubs, with specialized tools that help funnel resources straight to the heart of where preservation in Oregon takes place—the local level.

For example, we can use the National Register of Historic Places as a passive way to recognize the significant places in our past, or we can leverage National Register nominations to broaden public understanding of Oregon's historic places and events, which then generates interest in community surveys where widespread identification of resources actually happens. Once a community knows where its historic properties are and the stories they tell, it can use our Certified Local Government

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WE ARE HERITAGE PROGRAMS . . . continued from page 3

program to acquire funds to interpret the story and educate its citizens. State and federal tax incentive programs help private property owners protect and preserve the historic fabric of their communities, and the Section 106 program gives citizens a voice when these places may be adversely affected by federally funded development projects.

Simply stated, it is the SHPO's goal, and role, to use the procedural regulations of our federal programs as a starting point from which to achieve our higher mandate: to be a leader, a partner, and a resource.

Beyond this, these SHPO-specific programs can and do dovetail nicely with the interests of many heritage-oriented groups, like the people who care deeply about the protection of Oregon's 16 historic trails, or the many historic cemeteries scattered far and wide across the state, or through community projects developed by county and tribal cultural coalitions who are receiving heritage-designated funds from one of our key partners, the innovative Oregon Cultural Trust.

Each day the work of the State Historic Preservation Office in some way touches upon and helps supports all of the other activities of OPRD's Heritage Programs. These are *your* programs, for your towns, cities, and counties, for your heritage organizations and non-profits. These programs are designed to help those individuals and groups throughout Oregon who get preservation done, who serve on advisory boards, and who seek ways to make our state's history and heritage remain alive in our hearts so that the story that is Oregon can continue to be told in the most active of voices.

National Register of Historic Places

Have you ever noticed those bronze plaques that are often seen on historic buildings in your downtown or houses in your neighborhood? They say something about the "National Register," but have you ever wondered what that actually means?

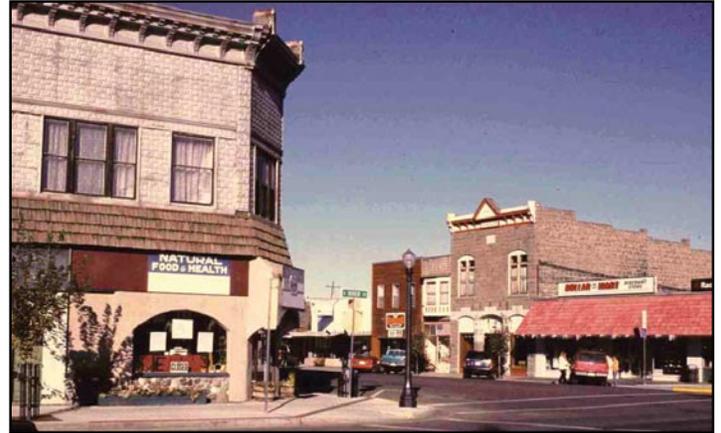
Here's a brief introduction to the National Register program in Oregon. Congress created the National Register of Historic Places as part of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 to serve as the nation's official list of cultural resources. At the federal level, the National Register is located in the National Park Service, a branch of the U.S. Department of Interior; however, the program itself is administered at the state level, in the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Every state has National Register coordinators to assist the public through the process of listing a property in the National Register. The Oregon SHPO National Register staff includes coordinators Ian Johnson and Cara Kaser and program assistant Kimarie Lamb.



The Italian Villa style Isham Saling house (1880) in Weston is just one example of the hundreds of Oregon's historic places that have been listed in the National Register since the State Historic Preservation Office was established in 1967.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES . . . continued from page 4



There are many historic downtowns in Oregon, some listed in the National Register as commercial districts (Grants Pass, left), and others that are eligible for designation (Enterprise, right).

Properties eligible for listing in the National Register may include historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, districts, and even cultural landscapes. In Oregon, over 1,800 properties representing the state's unique history—including sites related to the region's native peoples, settlement and growth, architectural development, and more recently, the post-World War II period—are listed in the National Register.

National Register-listed properties in your community may be eligible to apply for grants from SHPO, as well as to take advantage of two tax incentive programs: a special assessment tax freeze program, and in certain cases, a federal tax credit for rehabilitation. Some local governments have additional benefits and incentives for owners of National Register-listed properties.

For Oregon residents interested in listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places, SHPO offers a variety of technical and consultation services including determining the National Register eligibility of individual resources, and advice on how best to prepare a National Register nomination form. Program coordinators can also assist individuals and communities in identifying local historic resources and historic districts through historic resource surveys. They can also help identify potential collections of buildings and offer guidance about how best to identify and evaluate districts or individual properties for placement in the National Register.

Once a National Register nomination has been completed, it is evaluated by the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation (SACHP), a nine-member citizen board, appointed by the governor. The SACHP is composed of architects, historians, architectural historians, anthropologists, archaeologists, and local activists with experience in preserving Oregon's historic resources. This advisory board assesses the eligibility of the nominated property for listing in the National Register and makes a recommendation to the SHPO. Once approved by the board, the SHPO then submits the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register for listing.

If you know of a property that may be eligible for listing in the National Register, don't hesitate to contact us and we'll be happy to take a look.

Archaeological Services

Imagine the movie theme music of “Indiana Jones” playing in the background while five archaeologists set forth, bringing with them their trusty trowels, a network of 21st century computer technology, and wheelbarrows full of professionalism to protect Oregon’s archaeological legacy!

Well, the daily scene in their Salem office may not unfold exactly like that (especially the music part), but these State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff members do indeed bring to their job assignments a set of effective computer technology tools and a lot of dedication. Backed by several state laws, the Archaeological Services team—lead archaeologist Dennis Griffin, Susan White, Gary Curtis, Mollie Manion, and Matthew Diederich—seeks to protect and preserve a valuable part of Oregon’s cultural heritage.

Archaeological Services works in partnership with federal, state, and local governments, tribes and private citizens to resolve concerns that can occur among competing interests—proposed development, scientific research, and the sensitive treatment for cultural resources in Oregon. The staff of SHPO’s Archaeological Services reviews various types of projects and their possible impacts to archaeological sites by helping government agencies and private groups develop a management plan that meets their needs as well as protects the archaeological site.

One example of the progressive methods Archaeological Services employs to aid multi-party interaction is the Oregon Archaeological Excavation Permit. Use of this permit provides a process in cases where a project cannot avoid impacting a known archaeological site. The permit is also used to look for sites on public land.

A database containing information of over 30,000 sites in the state and over 21,000 reports that document the archaeology in Oregon is an essential tool for the Archaeological Services staff. This database is located in a computerized GIS mapping program where known sites and surveys are connected to copies of site forms, reports, historic maps, photographic maps as well as to a bibliographic database. Access to these databases is restricted to qualified researchers.

Section 106 Review and Compliance

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, any federally-funded project that affects historic resources 50 years or older must be evaluated to determine what effect, if any, the undertaking will have on historic resources. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staffers Steve Poyser and Sarah Jalving review Section 106 applications to see if a project will impact these historic resources, and if so whether there is an alternative solution that will not impact the resource. If the historic resource will be impacted adversely, SHPO works with the applicant to mitigate that effect.

Federal agencies are required to take into consideration the effects of their projects on historic properties. SHPO works closely with a number of federal agencies, including the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and other federal and state offices that undertake federally-funded projects.

Section 106 projects may be quite large, such as evaluating the effect proposed highway projects will have on Oregon’s cultural landscape; or they may be relatively small, such as replacing windows and insulation in a fifty plus year old house that is part of a federally-funded HUD project.

Last year, SHPO evaluated more than 3,000 Section 106 applications that had the potential to affect both above and below ground cultural resources statewide.

Oregon Heritage Commission

Heritage Programs staff member Kyle Jansson is the coordinator for the Oregon Heritage Commission and works directly with that advisory group to help facilitate state heritage initiatives through its grant programs, advocacy, technical assistance projects, and education.

Chaired by George Kramer of Ashland, the Heritage Commission is composed of nine members appointed by the governor—representatives from the Oregon Historical Society, Oregon State Library, the Oregon Department of Education, the Oregon University System, the Oregon State Archives, the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department, the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, and the State Historic Preservation Office.

Some 50 heritage projects have benefited from Heritage Commission grants over the past two years. The Heritage Grant Program has funded projects such as collections storage improvements, a canoe-making project for tribal youth, educational kits, and exhibits, and the Oregon Museums Grant Program has funded projects related to heritage tourism, heritage education and interpretation, and heritage preservation.

The Heritage Commission also provides technical information about heritage management through its annual Oregon Heritage Conference and its new technical assistance program. This year's conference—the eighth since 1999—is taking place May 3-5 in Pendleton with the theme of *Strengthening the Fabric of Oregon Heritage*.

Guided by the 2005-2011 Oregon Heritage Plan, the Heritage Commission also serves as a forum for such issues as county historical society funding and Oregon history instruction in schools. Frequently, it helps heritage groups in Oregon connect and coordinate with resources and each other to grow their capabilities and capacity.



The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles improved its collections storage with the purchase of a new storage unit, which was partially funded by a Heritage Grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission (OHC).



The creative hands of Siletz tribal member Bud Lane begins to craft a spruce root basket. His participation was among many others during the Oregon Folklife Program's Oregon Tribal Project, which received OHC Heritage Grant funds.

Historic Cemeteries Program

The Historic Cemeteries Program aims to empower local groups to preserve and interpret historic cemeteries throughout the state. Kuri Gill is the program coordinator who works directly with the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries (OCHC), a group of seven individuals from throughout the state dedicated to this effort. The Commission is also charged with maintaining a list of historic cemeteries.

Established in 1999, the program has already achieved many goals. The historic cemetery survey is a tool used to gather updated information about historic cemeteries including their histories, condition, and status. Annual campaigns promoting the completion of the surveys have continually increased the number of listed cemeteries, yet there are many more that need to be documented with the Commission.

The historic cemetery grants program is another clear success. After just two grant cycles, markers have been repaired, sites documented and researched, fences installed, and workshops presented throughout the state. These grant projects include cemeteries of all sizes and levels of condition. One grant-funded workshop held in Jacksonville last summer drew 26 people who have since continued maintenance and repair work in local cemeteries.



Workers put the final touches on a fencing project at the Rock Hill Cemetery near Gold Hill. A Historic Cemetery Grant was used by the Rock Hill Cemetery Association to provide better protection for the site.



The Historic Cemeteries Program offers technical support and information in various ways, mainly through resource links listed on our website and on-site workshops. Some upcoming projects include technical booklets on topics from legal issues to gravestone symbols, online access to the historic cemetery list, and the collection of burial information. Kuri's program is an integral part of Heritage Programs, and she looks forward to working with genealogical groups and local cemetery organizations to increase the services and resources we offer.

Icons on historic cemetery monuments, like these on a metal monument in Drain—drape, wreath, clasped hands—often display religious symbolism or styles and preferences of a certain period.

Certified Local Governments

“Congratulations on becoming Oregon’s newest CLG!” According to her office colleagues, this has to be Sarah Jalving’s favorite phrase these days. A smiling Sarah is the coordinator for SHPO’s Certified Local Government (CLG) program, and she’s been extending congrats to several local governments recently. Oregon currently has 26 CLG communities, with the cities of Enterprise, Lake Oswego, Oakland, Silverton, and Union working on becoming certified this year.

With the appointment of interested and qualified residents to serve as members of the historic preservation landmarks commission, and the passing of a historic preservation ordinance that outlines how a local government will address historic resource issues, communities across Oregon have taken the step of becoming CLGs. It often represents the culmination of a community’s desire and determined effort to preserve and protect their important historic resources.

Take a look at the ways that communities statewide are planning to use the 2006-07 CLG matching grants: preparing for Historic Preservation Month, development of historic information for a county website, creation of preservation plan, update and expansion of historic resources survey, program administration and design review, restoration of a historic staircase, installation of historic district signage, and National Register nomination of a historic neighborhood. These are just a few of the many projects that are carried out each year by CLGs.

So, go ahead, make Sarah’s day. Find out how your local government can become “certified” with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit

Joy Sears is SHPO’s Restoration Specialist with duties to oversee the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit program as well as offer technical assistance to property owners who want to fix up their historic buildings according to appropriate preservation guidelines.

The federal tax credit program was established in 1976 with modifications by Congress in 1986 and is available for historic buildings that will be rehabilitated for income-producing purposes. Historic buildings must either be listed individually or as part of a historic district in the National Register of Historic Places to be eligible to participate in this tax incentive program. Property owners can take 20% of their overall qualifying expenses off their federal income tax.

Of course, this is a tax incentive that helps preserve historic properties with the requirement that property owners put back some of the money they saved with the credit into rehabilitation



Owners of the Crane Building in Portland leveraged a SHPO-managed Federal Tax Credit to rehabilitate the historic building’s exterior and interior converting the old plumbing supply warehouse into condominiums and office space.

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FEDERAL REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT . . . continued from page 9

of the property. In order to qualify for the tax credit, property owners have to meet the “adjusted basis”—the purchase price minus the land value. That amount is the minimum that must be spent to get the credit. Long term owners can deduct depreciation to make their adjusted basis even lower. In terms of what qualifies for the credit, think of the building as a dollhouse turned upside-down; everything that falls out does not count as qualified expenses.

In addition to the hard costs of construction and materials, soft costs like architect and engineer fees qualify. All work completed on the structure must meet the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation*. The IRS requires that property owners must retain ownership of the building for five years after the tax credit is taken.



The rear section of the Crane Building, located in the “Portland 13th Avenue Historic District,” was once a large shed filled with pipes and fittings. Today the space houses an upscale restaurant.



The recently completed Bay 13 restaurant is part of an extensive adaptive re-use plan for rehabilitating the historic Crane Building.

Regarding Joy’s technical assistance role, she is available to conduct site visits to discuss your project or potential project. Emails and phone calls are also encouraged from property owners who have questions about specific building repairs and larger scope rehab projects. For this advice, the historic building need not be listed in the National Register, but it’s always best to check with her well before any work gets underway that might affect the historic character of the property.

Joy also manages and updates SHPO’s online [Contractors & Consultants Directory](#) and is happy to personally help people find contractors, design professionals, consultants, and suppliers.

Special Assessment of Historic Property

Many of our customers have had the pleasure of talking with one of Heritage Programs’ veteran staffers, Susan Haylock. Suzie serves as the coordinator for the [Special Assessment of Historic Property Program](#), a state tax incentive program offered through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Oregon was the first state to introduce such a tax incentive for historic property back in 1975; Suzie has worked with the program since 1985. In a nutshell, the purpose of this program is to encourage rehabilitation and renovation of historic homes and buildings, and it is available to owners of property listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF HISTORIC PROPERTY . . . continued from page 10

How does this incentive work? A “freeze” is placed on the assessed value of the property by the county assessor at the time of the Special Assessment application, which is a process that begins with Suzie at SHPO. After an approved plan is put in place, the program allows an owner the opportunity to carry out rehabilitation/renovation without consequence of higher taxation during the 15-year benefit period. The program is most beneficial when it’s put into place before any rehab work or other improvement is begun.

The Special Assessment program directly benefits the property owner and indirectly benefits the neighborhood or larger community in terms of added property value, economic development opportunities, potential construction industry jobs, and increased tourism.

Suzie is ready to help guide you through the application process, provide technical support and information, and be your cheerleader as you undertake rehabilitation and protection of your historic property.

The Special Assessment program may be used in tandem with the Federal Investment Tax Credit program for historic commercial properties, also administered by the SHPO, which provides for a 20% income tax credit for rehabilitation. It can also be used in conjunction with local government incentives geared toward historic properties, if available.

Heritage Programs Grants

Heritage Programs offers several grants that help preserve and enrich Oregon’s heritage. The goal is to meet a variety of needs for support of historic preservation and other heritage-related projects across the state. Throughout this issue of *Cultural Heritage Courier*, various program grants have been mentioned. Kimberly Dunn, our Grants coordinator has prepared a summary of all Heritage Programs grant funding opportunities. In addition to directly contacting specific program coordinators about their grants, you can also contact Kimberly for questions about funding cycles and application procedures.

- The **Preserving Oregon Grants** program provides funding to support historic preservation rehabilitation projects in rural and urban areas throughout Oregon. To qualify, a historic property must be currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places either individually or as a “contributing property” in a historic district. Priority is given to public non-profit properties, private (non-commercial) properties, and properties offering the greatest public benefit through visual access and interpretive/educational value. Geographic distribution and historic significance of the property are also considered.



Wallowa County Museum in Joseph received Preserving Oregon grant support for installation of an elevator to allow handicapped access to the upper floor collections.

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HERITAGE PROGRAMS GRANTS . . . continued from page 11



The historic Jacob Conser House in Jefferson received Preserving Oregon rehabilitation grant funds to help preserve the 1854 Classic Revival structure that today serves the community as a library.

- The Oregon Heritage Commission offers the **Oregon Museum Grants** program to support Oregon museums in projects for the collection and management of heritage collections, for heritage-related tourism, and heritage education and interpretation. Any qualified museum based in Oregon is eligible to apply. Museums are defined by statute as public institutions or private nonprofit Oregon corporations primarily devoted to the acquisition and public exhibition of specimens, artifacts, articles, documents, and other items that relate to history, anthropology, archaeology, science, or art and that have historical significance.
- The Oregon Heritage Commission also offers the **Oregon Heritage Grants** program to support projects for the conservation, development, and interpretation of Oregon's heritage that are conducted by non-profit organizations, federally recognized tribal governments, and local governments in Oregon that conserve, develop, or interpret Oregon's heritage.

- **Certified Local Government Grants** are available to local governments that have met qualifications under the Historic Preservation Act for programs including historic inventories, historic preservation planning, review for compliance with local preservation ordinances, National Register nominations, and educational projects.
- The Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries offers grants to historic cemeteries located in the state. **Historic Cemetery Grants** can provide financial assistance to projects for purposes including: protection and security; restoration and preservation; and education and training. Eligible projects may include, but aren't limited to: security fencing or lighting, skilled monument repair or training, conservation of historic elements such as fencing, curbs, and markers, documentation and mapping, signage, landscape restoration, and planning and interpretation.



The City of Jacksonville received support from Certified Local Government grant funds to help preserve the Oregon gold rush era National Historic Landmark town.

Heritage in State Parks

The recent opening of the Fort Yamhill State Heritage Area near Grand Ronde and the extensive artifact curation and building rehabilitation being done at the National Historic Landmark Kam Wah Chung Museum in John Day are only two examples of on going efforts to protect and preserve Oregon's heritage by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) within the 235 state parks the agency manages.

Heritage Programs, a divisional unit of OPRD, welcomed two cultural resource specialists to its staff in 2006 who will work directly with Oregon State Parks to augment those preservation efforts.

Nancy Nelson is an archaeologist assigned to assist state parks personnel with the management of subsurface cultural resources, which is accomplished through the Cultural Resources Clearance form process. In this process, she makes recommendations on how to better protect cultural resources and how to mitigate adverse effects to those resources. Nancy also assists project managers, engineers and master planning coordinators on park development, and infrastructure and road projects. In addition to these duties, Nancy serves as tribal liaison for park projects to honor the government-to-government relationship with Oregon's nine federally-recognized tribes.

An example of Nancy's work is typified in a relatively small, but nonetheless important project involving an Oregon coast shell midden site. The site had been damaged due to visitors creating a trail to the beach. Nancy worked with park staff to develop a cost-effective solution to minimize the impact on this Native American archaeological site. To encourage visitors to use the established trail, the shell midden was covered with sod and willow slips were planted for stabilization.



A damaged shell midden site on the Oregon coast before OPRD's archaeologist helped park staff devise an appropriate plan to better protect the cultural resource.



Sod now covers the once-exposed coastal archaeological site and plantings will help stabilize a section of ocean beach where visitors had created their own path.

For those projects that may impact subsurface cultural resources and may involve "above ground" resources, Nancy will work alongside her colleague Ross Curtis, OPRD's Historic Preservation Specialist.

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HERITAGE IN STATE PARKS . . . continued from page 13

Ross's job is to advise OPRD on preservation issues regarding the built-environment—historic buildings, structures, objects, districts, and cultural landscapes. He joins various OPRD field and headquarters staff in helping to determine the appropriate management practices for preservation of the various types of cultural resources including historic artifacts that are discovered on parks property or donated to a park by citizens.

He also consults and collaborates regularly with other Heritage Programs staff to insure that proposed projects adhere to the highest in current historic preservation standards.

Direct technical assistance is provided by Ross to parks personnel regarding appropriate techniques for maintenance, repair, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, and removal or moving of historic buildings and structures. Preservation, interpretation and management recommendations are also provided for park master plans, interpretive plans, site designs and land acquisitions.



At Silver Falls State Park, the stone kitchen shelter, built by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers in the 1930's, has recently undergone a complete restoration, which included repointing of stonework, replacement of cedar roof shingles and repair of woodwork.



Steps at the CCC-era stone kitchen shelter and other parts of the historic building's stonework were repaired by an expert stone mason using guidelines specific to rehabilitating historic buildings.

Ross also researches the significance of historic park properties so that they can be properly evaluated and preserved. This research can include archival record searches, as well as field documentation where historic properties are mapped, photographed, and described. Oral histories are occasionally conducted with individuals who have specific knowledge of historic resources managed by OPRD. Condition assessments of buildings and structures are also conducted to make recommendations for restoration and rehabilitation work. The results of in-house assessments and consultant reports are integrated in the creation of long-term preservation plans for OPRD historic resources.