



The Historic Review Board is pleased to announce that Oregon City has been awarded a Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant from the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office to update former surveys on existing historic Landmarks in Oregon City and to create a new survey of about 1500 properties that are over 50 years old and have never been documented. To assist in this effort, the city has hired Painter Preservation & Planning to complete the surveys, assist the city in its historic preservation planning efforts, and to help keep you informed of project progress at every step.

Over the next few months, Painter Preservation and Planning will undertake survey activities designed to assist the city in future management of its historic resources. The individual components of the survey activities are as follows:

- Oregon City recognizes 86 individual historic landmarks outside of the city's historic districts. Painter Preservation and the Planning Division will review former surveys for these properties and document alterations to the buildings that have occurred over time.
- About 1500 new surveys will be undertaken for properties that have never been surveyed before. These surveys will be very brief and will primarily document age and significant architectural details. The survey will focus on properties that date from the mid-century (1930 - 1960) throughout the city, and properties that have been part of annexation processes over the last 25 years. This research will provide the city with a historic record of its development throughout the mid-20th century. It will also help identify historic buildings that may be eligible for local designation.

The survey team will undertake this work from January thru April 2011. You are receiving this letter because the survey team will likely visit your property or your neighborhood. All survey work, which includes photographing the exterior of your home and noting architectural features, will take place from the public right-of-way. Surveyors will not be entering your property or asking to view the interior of your home or business.

If you have additional questions or would like to meet the project team, please attend the kick-off open house. The meeting will also be recorded and streamed to the city's website.

2011 City-Wide Historic Survey Open House

**January 25, 2011
City Hall
625 Center Street
6:00-7:00PM**

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Christina Robertson-Gardiner, Preservation Planner at 503.496.1564 or crobertson@orc.org. Additional information and monthly updates can be found on the project [website](http://www.orcity.org/planning) (www.orcity.org/planning)

Frequently Asked Questions about Oregon City's Historic Preservation Program

What is a CLG city?

A city that has been designated a Certified Local Government or CLG has been recognized by the State of Oregon and the National Park Service (NPS) as a city that has a historic preservation program that meets NPS guidelines and is therefore eligible to receive funds for historic surveys and other preservation activities.

How will the results of this survey be used?

The results of this survey will be used to update and maintain the inventory of existing and potential historic properties in Oregon City. The survey for Oregon City's existing 86 locally designated properties will provide information to the city as to whether these properties may still be considered historic under city and state guidelines. The results of the survey for older properties in Oregon City that have not been previously surveyed will provide invaluable information on how the city grew and will identify areas that still retain a sense of distinct historic identity. While some properties may end up with a local designation, the real value of this project will be the breadth of information that can be utilized in future planning projects such as updates to the Transportation System Plan, adoption of future neighborhood plans, or revisions to existing utility master plans.

If a house has an inventory form, does that mean it is historic? What makes a building "historic"?

An inventory form can be created for any building. Oregon City currently has inventory forms for both historic and non-historic buildings. Historic designation is bestowed on a property that has applied for local designation through the Land Use process. Oregon City has over 500 locally designated properties. When properties are locally designated, the city has review authority for exterior alterations to the site. Interior alterations do not require historic review. Buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places are usually locally designated as well. National Register designations are separately processed through the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the National Park Service (NPS).

How can I apply for local designation? What if I don't want my property to be locally designated?

Oregon State Statute requires owner consent for local historic designation. That is, you are only designated if you want to be. Contact Christina Robertson-Gardiner for more information on the designation process.

Can I make changes to my property if it is locally designated? All exterior alterations require review by either the Historic Review Board or Oregon City staff, depending on the extent of the project. No formal review is required for maintenance and repair, if it meets the adopted guidelines.

Are there any grant monies for rehabilitation, repair or maintenance of historic properties in Oregon City? Yes, Oregon City maintains a 50/50 matching grant program for locally designated properties. The grant pays for such projects as window repair, siding repair and the restoration of missing features. The grant does not pay for regular maintenance projects (such as painting) or interior work.

<http://www.orcity.org/planning/historic-preservation-grant>

Are there tax benefits for locally designated historic properties? No, only buildings listed on the National Register may take advantage of the Oregon Special Assessment Program. Contact the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office for more information. http://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/SHPO/tax_assessment.shtml

How can I find out more about Oregon City's Historic Preservation Program? The Oregon City Planning Division website contains a large amount of historic resource data and information relating the Preservation program. (www.orcity.org/planning).

How can I become involved in historic preservation in Oregon City? The city is always looking for people interested in local history and preservation. Contact Christina Robertson Gardiner for more ways to get involved.