

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

April 23, 2025

Agenda Item:	7a	Information
Public Comment Allowed:	Yes	
Topic:	Heritage Section Brief	
Presented by:	Ian P. Johnson, Assoc. Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	

Recent Listing in the federal National Register of Historic Places Recognizes HIV History

The National Park Service listed the Juniper House in Portland, Multnomah County, in the National Register of Historic Places in February 2025. Originally constructed as a single-family residence in 1902, co-founders John Trevitts, Doug Foland, and Jan Weyeneth converted the building in 1987 into Oregon's first HIV/AIDS end-of-life care home. From May 1987 to September 1989, Juniper House filled a critical void in Oregon's healthcare system during a period marked by widespread stigma and systemic discrimination against people with HIV/AIDS. Its influence was instrumental in shaping public opinion and responses to HIV/AIDS in Oregon and inspired the establishment of several similar end-of-life care facilities throughout the state in the late 1980s and beyond.



Juniper House, Portland. Listed in the National Register in February 2025

Heritage Section Committees Meet

Oregon Heritage oversees four State Commissions and Committees, which met between January and March to address key heritage initiatives.

The State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation (SACHP) met February 20-21 in Salem. The meeting included tours of the Bonneville Power Administration's Salem Substation and the rehabilitated Salem Train Station and Baggage Depot. Oregon State Archaeologist John Pouley provided a presentation on nominating archaeological sites to the National Register of Historic Places. The committee reviewed and recommended five National Register nominations, all with revisions: Owyhee Grocery (Nyssa), Mingus Park Community Building (Coos Bay), Oregon Country Methodist Mission Sites (various counties in Oregon and Washington), Mill Place House Site (Salem), and Port Orford City Jail. The next meeting is scheduled for June 26-27, 2025, with the location to be announced in April.



Members of the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation and Heritage Section Staff at the Salem Train Station and Baggage Depot, Salem, February 2025

The Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries (OCHC) met online on February 7. Oregon Heritage Commission Coordinator Katie Henry presented findings from the Oregon Heritage Vitality study, and the commission discussed its role in implementing recommendations and advancing the Oregon Historic Preservation Plan. The meeting also highlighted upcoming cemetery resources, including the Oregon Historic Cemeteries Grant and the Historic Cemetery Cleanup Days with partner organization SOLVE. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2025, online.

The Oregon Heritage Commission (OHC) met online on January 27. The Tribal Relationship Building Sub-Committee discussed a resolution reaffirming the commission's commitment to strengthening relationships with Oregon's Tribes. Staff provided updates on the 2025 Oregon Heritage Virtual Summit, the 2026 Oregon Heritage Conference, and the Oregon 250 Commission. The next hybrid meeting is scheduled for May 4-5 in the Coburg/Eugene/Springfield region.

Oregon Main Street & Revitalization Grant Drive Statewide Impact

The 2024 Oregon Main Street Annual Report highlights the impact of participating communities, including \$24 million in private investment, 168 net new businesses, 1,652 new jobs, and 293 building rehabilitation projects. Volunteers contributed nearly 34,000 hours to improving their communities. The report also spotlights Main Street projects across Oregon.

Since its establishment in 2015, the Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant has supported building projects in 59 communities, securing between \$53,000 and \$900,000 per community. The Heritage Section awarded grants in 2017, 2019, 2022, and 2023. Many communities regularly use the program. Reedsport, for example, has improved 10 properties, with six more in progress.

Even with ongoing projects, the grant has delivered measurable results:

- 92 buildings improved
- 101 housing units added
- 12+ vacant buildings filled
- 5 ADA improvements
- 7 structural reinforcements
- 31 façade restorations

A full summary is available on the Oregon Heritage website.

Oregon Archaeological Guidelines Near Completion

After over three years of research and coordination, the Oregon Archaeological Guidelines are nearly complete. The guidelines are organized into five categories: State and federal laws, research, field methods, National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluations, and documentation Standards. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff gathered input from Tribes, agencies, private firms, and university faculty throughout development. Efforts focused on researching relevant state and federal laws, including archaeological standards, NRHP criteria, and documentation qualifications. The effort supports the guidelines' main goal: to provide clear, legally based requirements grounded in established processes and practice.



Oregon State University Field School working at the Devil's Kitchen Archeological site in Coos County

The guidelines also aim to streamline SHPO reviews, facilitating agreement on NRHP determinations of eligibility and findings of effect under federal and state laws. The guidelines clarify archaeologists' responsibilities and what documentation SHPO needs, helping project proponents understand how archaeologists support compliance with cultural resource laws.

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