

## Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

June 18, 2025

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

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### Organizational and Staff Changes Effective July 1, 2025

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Chrissy Curran will retire from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) on June 30, 2025 after 25 years of service. Chrissy began her career as a compliance reviewer and later took on roles as National Register Program Coordinator and Associate Deputy SHPO. Ian Johnson will become Deputy SHPO on July 1. He previously coordinated the National Register Program and currently serves as Associate Deputy SHPO. OPRD recently reorganized the Oregon Heritage, which includes the SHPO, shifting it to the Heritage Section within the Field and Community Services Division. Ian will carry out the SHPO's responsibilities under federal and state cultural resource laws.

### Oregon Main Street Coordinator Sheri Stuart receives National Award

Main Street America named Sheri Stuart, Oregon Main Street Coordinator, as a 2025 recipient of the Mary Means Leadership Award, the organization's highest honor. Presented at the Main Street Now Conference in Philadelphia, the award recognizes exceptional leadership in preservation based economic development and downtown revitalization. "Sheri Stuart is an incredible example of what Main Street leadership looks like in action," said Erin Barnes, President and CEO of Main Street America. "Her purposeful statewide coordination, innovation across diverse communities, and unwavering advocacy for Oregon's Main Streets make her a standout leader." Stuart's extensive career spans local, state, and national roles, including serving as a local Main Street Executive Director, a Program Officer with the National Main Street Center, and since 2009, Coordinator of Oregon Main Street. Under her leadership, the program supports a network of over 100 communities working to strengthen local economies and enhance livability across Oregon.



**Sheri Stuart at the 2022 Oregon Main Street Conference**

## Oregon Heritage Pioneers Community Preparedness Surveys

Oregon Heritage partnered with the City of Cottage Grove, a Heritage All-Star Community to develop the Community Preparedness Survey. Designed to be a closer evaluation of an entire community or select areas of a community than the Reconnaissance Level Survey for historic properties, this program provides a combination of historic preservation recommendations and identification of strengths and weaknesses in community disaster preparedness. The City of Cottage Grove partnered with Oregon Heritage to expand on the *2020 Disaster Resilience Plan for Heritage Resources*. Survey conducted by Oregon Heritage of more than 300 properties identified potential candidates for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, which will pair in reporting with customized recommendations for disaster mitigation, recovery, and resilience. This survey type directly supports Goal C, of the 2024-2033 Historic Preservation Plan. Findings and report details will be shared with Cottage Grove at Historic Commission and City Council meetings this summer.



**Oregon Heritage Staff member Josh Henderson surveys historic properties in Cottage Grove, Oregon**

## National Park Service Lists Port Orford City Jail in National Register of Historic Places

The Port Orford City Jail has been added to the National Register of Historic Places for its historical significance and ties to early civic development in the region. Built in 1939, it was the only new government structure constructed during the administration of Mayor Gilbert E. Gable. Gable, who arrived in Port Orford in 1934, led several commercial ventures and was instrumental in the town's incorporation in 1935. Elected its first mayor, he served until his sudden death in 1941. During his tenure, Gable promoted economic development in Southwestern Oregon, supported recovery



**Port Orford City Jail, Curry Co.**

in Bandon after the 1936 fire, and pursued regional connectivity through the ambitious but unrealized Gold Coast Railroad. A charismatic figure, he gained regional attention, culminating in his promotion of the State of Jefferson movement in 1941 to address frustrations of rural residents in southern Oregon and northern California. Though the movement ended shortly after his death, its legacy persists. The jail operated from 1939 to about 1965 and was reacquired by the City of Port Orford in 2007 after a period of private ownership. Oregon SHPO staff member Val Ballestrem prepared the nomination in collaboration with a local advocate.

Also recently listed are several Oregon properties reflecting the state's diverse history and community development: the 1942 Salem Substation in Salem, an example of midcentury public

utility infrastructure; the circa 1933 Owyhee Grocery (The Rock Store) near Nyssa in Malheur County, a key commercial stop for travelers between Nyssa, Adrian, and the Owyhee Dam; and the 1940 Mingus Park Community Building (Scout Cabin) in Coos Bay, designed by Clarence E. Landes and built by WPA laborers using local materials, which served as a hub for youth scouting and community events.

**Prepared by:** Ian P. Johnson, Associate Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Evan West, Survey and Inventory Coordinator  
Kuri Gill, Grants & Outreach Coordinator  
Katie Henry, Heritage Commission Coordinator  
Caitlyn Abrahms, National Register of Historic Places Program Coordinator  
Val Ballestrem, Preservation Bureau Assistant