

No. 2
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2007

Cultural Heritage

C O U R I E R



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Discovery

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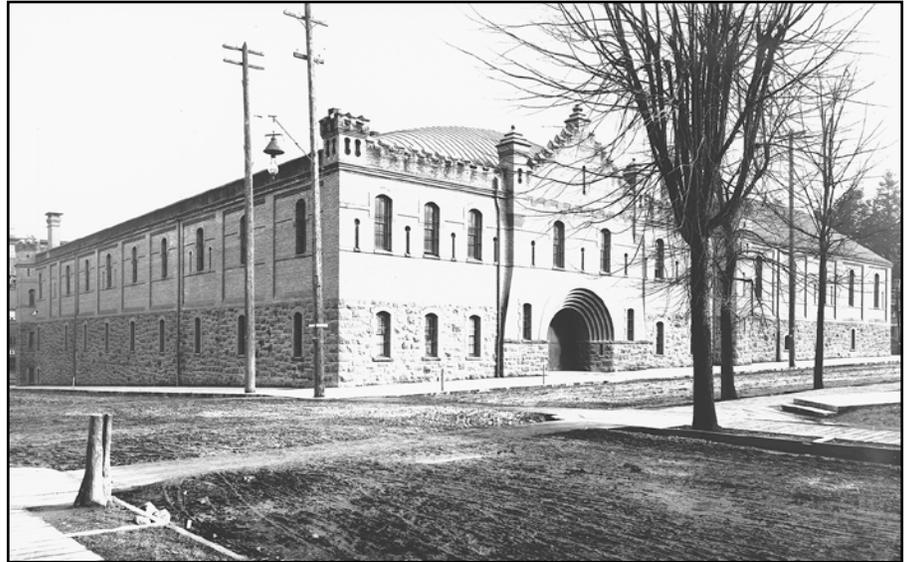
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Shown in this historical photograph, the original rear entrance to the First Regiment Armory Annex (facing a non-paved NW 11th Avenue & Davis Street corner) is now the front entrance to the new Portland Center Stage.

Historic Armory Annex is Portland Center Stage's new home

by James M. Hamrick, Jr.

The 1891 historic Portland Armory Annex just achieved two milestones. It is the nation's first National Register property and first performing arts facility to receive the top platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's [Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design \(LEED\)](#).

In a city well known for its many rehabilitated historic properties, finding the right use for this functionally obsolescent multi-storied single open space took many years and false starts before the Gerding Theater was conceived. However, as is typical in this type of building, conforming an innovative use can cause conflicts with the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation](#).

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SHPO expands GIS technology capability with ODOT

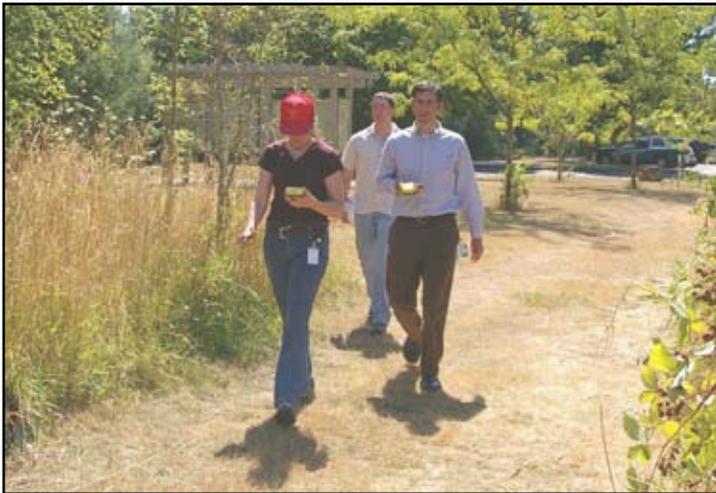
by Matthew Diederich

GIS Specialist, Archaeological Services/SHPO

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has begun working with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on creating digital spatial data to be delivered to SHPO with cultural resource assessment reports. This spatial data will be added to the SHPO Cultural Resource Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database. ODOT will create this data while in the field conducting cultural resource surveys.

Back in the summer, I joined Casey Ragain, ODOT GIS Analyst, and Carolyn McAleer, former ODOT Archaeological Program Coordinator, for a field test of ODOT's new mobile GPS/GIS equipment—the Trimble GeoXT, which is outfitted with Environmental Systems Research Institute's ArcPad software. This hardware/software combination allows the user to quickly and accurately collect data in the field in a format that can be easily transferred into the existing geodatabase back at the office.

Our cooperative effort with ODOT began out of a need for SHPO to streamline its GIS data entry. The process currently requires SHPO archaeologists to manually re-create the GIS data in the database using the supplied hard copy maps as a reference. By having digital data delivered to SHPO, the amount of time spent creating data is reduced providing more time for archaeologists to focus more on reviewing reports and ensuring that they comply with applicable cultural resource protection laws.



SHPO archaeologist Matthew Diederich (right) sets out with staff members from the Oregon Department of Transportation to field test the Tremble GeoXT, a mobile GPS/GIS unit that will aid both agencies in mapping cultural resources.

Using digital data that can be directly input into the GIS database also creates a more accurate data set. The Trimble GeoXT collects spatial data with an accuracy of less than one meter. This improved accuracy in the GIS database will help future archaeologists tailor their projects to make best use of their time while still addressing all of the relative cultural resources in project area.

Such accuracy is beneficial when creating the boundaries of an archaeological site. As boundaries can change over time, each time a site is visited acute recordation of the boundary will reflect any changes in the site boundaries. SHPO has given ODOT the schema of SHPO's GIS database, which contains the fields and how the fields are formatted in the SHPO database. ODOT used this outline to create a database that contains the same fields and format so that when ODOT attributes fields during data collection those attributes will be present when the data is added to SHPO's GIS database.

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Newport's Art Deco buildings surveyed

by Roger Roper

The City of Newport recently called on State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff to assist with its “Art Deco Heritage District,” a roughly 6-block commercial area straddling Coast Highway 101 in the heart of Newport. The district features a number of Art Deco style commercial buildings, inspired perhaps by the landmark Yaquina Bay Bridge that opened in 1936. The goal of the city and business community is to capitalize on that architectural theme to promote the area’s identity and stimulate its revitalization.

Two main questions were posed to SHPO. How many of these buildings would be considered historic? Would the area qualify as a [National Register historic district](#)? To answer those questions, SHPO staff traveled to Newport in early October to conduct a systematic architectural survey of the district.



SHPO's National Register and survey coordinators Cara Kaser (right) and Ian Johnson (left) compare notes while surveying downtown Newport's Art Deco buildings.



The stepped, vertical lines seen in this old Newport theater are a characteristic feature of Art Deco architecture. Several one- and two-story buildings with modest Art Deco stylistic features were identified during a recent “reconnaissance level survey”.

Newport’s request actually

came at a very opportune time. SHPO has been putting the finishing touches on its revised reconnaissance level survey (RLS) process, so this project provided staff with a good opportunity to test the new process in the field.

Reconnaissance surveys, often called “windshield surveys,” involve recording only the basic architectural features of buildings. They also include preliminary evaluations of historic integrity and significance and are meant to be a quick, cost-effective way to determine which buildings have preservation potential and are thereby worthy of additional study, designation, and rehabilitation. Reconnaissance surveys also help identify potential historic districts—or the lack thereof—because their building-by-building coverage reveals concentrations and gaps in historic building continuity.

The survey conducted by SHPO confirmed that there are indeed a number of Art Deco style buildings in the district. They are typically one- or two-story buildings with modest stylistic features; about what you would expect in a community about Newport’s size. Some, such as the former theater, are more exuberant expressions of the Art Deco style. Others have had some of their architectural features painted over or covered. These could be returned to their more striking original appearance with a little work. The survey team found a number of historic buildings that were not in the Art Deco style.

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Historic Trails council members look at wind farms in Oregon Trail country

by Ross Curtis

Three or four times a year members of the [Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council](#) (OHTAC) visit one of Oregon's 16 historic trails to examine first hand the impacts of development projects, public use, and the on-going effect of the natural elements. Information gathered during these field trips is used to develop recommendations made to local communities and state and federal agencies on how best to preserve and interpret the historic trails. Council members have collected a wealth of information on historic trails and enjoy sharing what they know with archaeologists and historians documenting historic trails.

Recently, I had the pleasure of joining a group of OHTAC members that headed out from The Dalles to view sections of the Oregon Trail within and adjacent to the wheat fields of Wasco, Sherman, and Gilliam counties. Once on the ground, the first thing I did was to scan the horizon. I wondered what it must have been like to pass through the vast open expanses of northeastern Oregon in the 1840s perhaps catching a glimpse of Mount Hood's snowy peak in the distance. In some areas, I saw ruts of pioneers' wagon wheels which certainly added a bit of tangible reality to my imagination.



Members of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council overlook a river crossing site along the Oregon Trail at the division of Sherman and Gilliam counties. They are interested in the visual impact that wind farms may have in areas where pioneer wagon wheels once rolled.

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HISTORIC ARMORY ANNEX . . . continued from page 1



The Armory Annex was listed in the National Register in 2000 with the distinction of being Oregon's earliest armory facility. The building was designed by the late 19th century Portland firm of McCaw and Martin.

trusses and the sense of the multi-story open space needed to be preserved, and thus the resulting full height lobby and generously exposed structural system.

The largest challenge in this project was the accommodation of the LEED certification requirements. That system currently does not take into account historic preservation guidelines such as the Standards. And the Standards rarely acknowledge the building practice changes that the sustainability movement requires. Thus, the Armory Annex project, an otherwise unique and commendable project, had its [federal investment tax credits](#) imperiled by now-antiquated interpretations of the Standards. In the end, however, the project was certified and is held up nationally as an example of the need to move LEED and the Standards closer together.



The vast interior open space of the Armory Annex (pictured here before rehabilitation work began) was preserved along with its bow roof trusses, both determined to be character-defining features of the historic building.

Bob Gerding, for whom the theater is named, is no stranger to the rehabilitation of historic buildings with challenging design components. He and his partner Mark Edlen envisioned a building within a building, showing the same innovative thinking that resulted in the successful re-use of the nearby Brewery Blocks and Weiden and Kennedy Building projects.

The \$36 million project rehabilitated the castle-like structure built of basalt and brick into a theater complex that houses a central 599-seat main stage, a “black box” studio theater, offices, and rehearsal and storage space for the Portland Center Stage group—all meeting the Standards.

Determining what constituted historic character-defining features on the exterior of the Annex was relatively easy, but much less so on the inside. Ultimately it was determined that the elegant bow roof

trusses and the sense of the multi-story open space needed to be preserved, and thus the resulting full height lobby and



Later known as the Portland Oregon National Guard Armory Annex, the fortress-like structure was constructed of stone and brick and is a rare example of the “Castellated” architectural style.

Sustainability and “green” building go hand-in-hand with the City of Portland.

The functionality and design of the building was balanced early on with the sustainability of the project. For instance, the gutters feed a 10,000-gallon underground cistern that collects rainwater to operate the toilets and irrigate a “sliver” park along the north side of the building. Other features include perforated metal boxes that capture rising air and cool offices, rehearsal rooms and the lobby by exposing the air to cold water from the chilled water plant off-site. In addition, construction crews recycled over 95% of the project debris and the contactors bought regional local and recycled materials as much as possible.

NEWPORT'S ART DECO BUILDINGS SURVEYED . . . continued from page 3



Reconnaissance level surveys (RLS) provide a quick way for communities to pinpoint which structures are potentially eligible for National Register listing and whether or not a particular geographical grouping of buildings may possibly constitute a historic district designation.

The Deco District certainly has a distinct character, but due to alterations and new construction it would probably not be a strong candidate for National Register designation at this time. That said, it is still worthy of local recognition and continued promotion. Its historic architecture can legitimately serve as both a point of pride in the community and as a stimulant for commercial revitalization.

Currently, the SHPO is updating its survey guidelines and an accompanying database. If your community is considering either a reconnaissance or intensive level survey, please contact our National Register/Survey coordinators [Ian Johnson](#) or [Cara Kaser](#).

SHPO EXPANDS GIS TECHNOLOGY . . . continued from page 2

ODOT will be attributing such fields as when and who created the feature, a project title, an agency project number to identify each project. For archaeological sites some of the included fields are a temporary agency site number, the type of site (i.e., lithic scatter, camp, historic can dump), and any comments that might be important to note in the field. These attributes can be added in different ways. Some of the fields, such as site type, have a drop down menu with common archaeological site types to choose from. This streamlines data collection, saving the archaeologist in the field time. Data can be manually entered in with a stylus and keyboard as well.

The goals of this project are to streamline the process of data collection in the field while at the same time creating highly accurate representations of project areas and site boundaries, allow SHPO archeologists to focus on other aspects of their jobs and not data entry, and to create a GIS data set that can be used by archaeologists to manage cultural resources effectively while at the same time allowing for research into archaeology using the powerful analytical tools offered through a GIS application. The hope is that this program can be given to other agencies to use and thereby set a state standard for creating cultural resource GIS data.



Combined with ArcPad software, the Tremble GeoXT mobile unit will ensure accurate cultural resource data collection in the field as well as provide SHPO archaeologists with a speedier data entry process back at the office computers.

Heritage IN State Parks

Living History workshop gets into "Character"

by Jamie Little

Interpretive Coordinator, Oregon State Parks

On September 25 and 26, twenty-eight Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) staff and volunteers, along with six OPRD Managers attended a lively two-day workshop at Champoege State Heritage Area on Living History programming.

Interpretive experts John Luzader and Jerri Spellman of Living Museums of the West gave a comprehensive training that included different styles of presenting living history interpretation such as the use of third-, second-, and first-person techniques. Also covered were guidelines for developing an interpretive character, problems to avoid, and application of techniques in work sessions.

Workshop participants were impressed by Luzader's knowledge and passion for his craft, and were especially interested in his focus on the stories of common people as well as how to use artifacts as a bridge to understanding people who lived in the past.

OPRD's state-wide interpretive team met in October to evaluate the Living History training and discuss possible future training sessions in this type of interpretive programming that may one day become an integral part of State Parks visitors' experience at various campgrounds and other park locations where Oregon's history and heritage is featured.



OPRD staff gave their full attention to "living history" expert John Luzader during a two-day workshop at Champoege State Heritage Area. Luzader very effectively demonstrated several examples of how third-, second-, and first-person interpretation methods differ from each other in presenting identified themes at cultural history sites.

40 agency participants attend State Parks' Archaeology Training Conference

by Nancy J. Nelson

Archaeologist, Oregon State Parks

Oregon State Parks' annual Archaeology Training Conference was held at the Discovery Center in The Dalles in mid-October and attracted some 40 state agency workers. The main focus of the 4-day conference was to provide an overview of archaeological issues that affect state and private lands in Oregon.

More specifically, the training was meant to give state agency employees a basic understanding of what to do when they think their projects may have an adverse impact on archaeological resources. It also provided education in the recognition of both prehistoric and historic sites, the importance of archaeological preservation both from a scientific and tribal perspective, applicable agency policies and federal/state regulations, and defining meaningful consultation with Oregon tribes.

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[VIEW COVER PAGE](#)

HERITAGE IN STATE PARKS . . . continued from page 7

Attending the training were representatives from the Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Military Department, Department of State Lands, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Preservation report from Thompson's Mills

by Ross Curtis

Historic Preservation Specialist, Oregon State Parks

Rehabilitation work is well underway at [Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site](#), one of Oregon State Parks newest property acquisitions and a premier historical site located 12 miles south of Albany and east of Highway 99E near the Willamette Valley town of Shedd.

Coatings have been stripped from the concrete silos of the mill complex that date to 1917 and a re-coating of the silos with whitewash has been applied. Original 1940 era murals of the mills' signature "rose" and "apple" graphics have been restored. The faded murals were uncovered on two of four silos during the stripping process.



1940 era brand name graphics for the mills' flour products were restored by mural artist Lori Webb.



Since this photo of Thompson's Mills was taken in 2006, several historic preservation projects and other improvements have been completed.

Structural work to the mill building that dates to the 1860s is on-going and will include repairing damaged structural elements, reinforcing supports, and better connecting the structure to the foundation.

A mill was built on the site in 1858 and then replaced after it burned down in 1862. From that time up until the 1940s, the present mills, also known as Boston Mills (1862-1910), served wheat growers in the mid-Willamette Valley as a place to process their harvest, provide flour to the early settlers of the region, and later produce livestock feed. The small community of Boston adjacent to the mills no longer exists.

“Thompson's Mills dates back to the dawning days of Oregon statehood,” said Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Director Tim Wood, “As important as places like Stub Stewart State Park are to our need for a place to play and relax, the mill is important to our sense of heritage as Oregonians. There's no other place like it.”

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HERITAGE IN STATE PARKS . . . continued from page 8

Beginning Dec. 9, 2007, the main mill building will be open on weekends for guided tours scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The site features interpretive displays, parking, a restroom, upgraded wiring and structural repairs in the mill building and ramp accesses.

OPRD used Oregon Lottery funds to purchase the noteworthy historic site for \$856,547 in 2004. Since then, the Department has worked with local families and historic societies to interpret the mills' past.

Thompson's Mills is part of Governor Ted Kulongoski's "Park-a-Year" initiative. Previous parks opened under the program include Sunset Beach in Clatsop County, Fort Yamhill in Polk County and Stub Stewart in Washington County.

THOMPSON'S MILLS FACTS

- Mill buildings and Queen Anne style mill keeper's residence are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1904 residence was one of first rural homes in Oregon to have electricity (supplied by a power line connected to the mill).
- Oregon's oldest water-powered mill.
- One of only two 19th century operating water-powered grain mills in the state.
- Originally built in 1858, destroyed by fire and immediately rebuilt in 1862, then expanded many times from 1900-1940.
- Silos, constructed in 1917, are first concrete silos built in western Oregon.

Oregon's Historical Markers – old and new

by David Bogan

While driving along Oregon's highways, state residents and tourists have no doubt seen those ubiquitous brown metal signs that read something like "Historical Marker Ahead". Travelers who have taken the time to stop at these markers have been treated to facts about a particular site that relates to Oregon history or geology.

Made from native Port Orford cedar and meticulously routed by master woodworkers, the older "Oregon History" markers have a history of their own. Many were built and placed by the Oregon Department of Transportation in the 1940's, 50's and 60's. However, new markers with fiberglass-type panels, supported and framed in cedar, are going up across the state providing lots more room for descriptive text as well as graphics and photographs.

When the [Oregon Travel Information Council](#) (OTIC) adopted the marker program in 1991, signs had not been built for years and many were suffering the effects of Oregon's climate. Restoring these older markers became a priority and is largely done by group of [dedicated volunteers](#) from the Salem Towne retirement community.



Located at Farewell Bend State Park in eastern Oregon, this is an example of the Oregon Travel Information Council's older style, routed cedar markers. Efforts are made to restore any aging and weatherworn markers whenever possible.



Pausing at an I-5 rest stop on the way to a southern Oregon survey site, SHPO archaeologist Dennis Griffin takes in historical and cultural information presented on one of OTIC's newer style interpretive markers.

OTIC's Historical Marker committee meets quarterly to review applications and drawings of proposed markers as well as to approve content of the signs. Now with statewide planning for the upcoming 150th anniversary of Oregon's statehood getting underway, the committee has hired Sea Reach, Ltd. to design a special "Sesquicentennial" marker. The committee has also launched an effort to find funding for the production of the commemorative markers. Plans are for the markers to be erected beginning in 2009 and located in each of Oregon's seven travel and tourism regions. These markers will focus on broad regional themes that collectively tell parts of the Oregon story.

Contact Historical Marker committee member [David Bogan](#) for more information about opportunities for community organizations and corporate entities to sponsor these regional Sesquicentennial markers.

HISTORIC TRAILS COUNCIL MEMBERS LOOK AT WIND FARMS . . . continued from page 4



A marker stake designates this spot on private land as another section of the Oregon Trail that is still visible. Also visible to OHTAC members are the giant wind turbines that are beginning to appear in numbers near some historic trail locations in northeastern Oregon communities.

On this trip OHTAC members were here to see how wide spread development of alternative energy wind farms, with rows of wind turbines beginning to dot the landscape, could impact intact sections of the Oregon Trail—both within view of the wind farms and completely isolated from sight of them. OHTAC is included in development projects during the initial planning stages to ensure that historic trail protection and interpretation are built into state and federally sponsored projects.

OREGON TRAIL STUDY

The Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC) has become a partner with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) conducting a comprehensive Oregon Trail Study. The state legislature has charged SHPO with preparing a study to examine the entire route of the trail from the Idaho border to Oregon City.

The goal of the study is to produce accurate maps that show the main routes of the Oregon Trail through the state so that the routes can be better preserved in the course of future developments like wind farm projects. Already a GIS layer in the SHPO database of the trail route on USGS topographic maps has been completed using maps prepared by Percy Brown in the 1970s.

Other components of the study include identifying all previously evaluated segments of the trail, and previously designated “high priority segments” based on integrity and historical significance.

Field verification of the route on the ground will be an on-going component of the study that will be aided by partners like OHTAC and the Oregon and California Trails Association (OCTA).

RECENT LISTINGS IN THE *National Register of Historic Places*

English Settlement School

Near Oakland, Douglas County

Constructed in 1910, the one-room English Settlement School is an example of the once-common one room rural schoolhouse and is important for its association with the development of the education system in Douglas County. The building served as the only school in the English Settlement community and the school district until 1934 when the district combined with the nearby Oakland School system.



Lone Fir Cemetery

Portland, Multnomah County

Platted in 1855 by Colburn Barrell, Lone Fir Cemetery was important for its association with the settlement and growth of Portland. The cemetery became one of the primary burial grounds for the first settlers of Portland and it is the oldest continuously operating cemetery in the immediate Portland area. During its operation people from different social, economic, and ethnic backgrounds were buried at the site.



J.C. Penney Building

Newberg, Yamhill County

Newberg's J.C. Penney Building was the city's first chain department store. The building is representative of the town's growth and development in the 1920s, and it is a notable example of twentieth century commercial architecture. The building is situated in a row of several downtown buildings known as the "Dixon triple-block." The building was constructed by S.E. Watkins in 1927 for owners Elmer P. Dixon and Ralph A. Butt.



LCI-713

Astoria, Clatsop County

Commissioned in October 1944, LCI-713 is nationally significant as the last surviving ship of an entire class of over 3,000 vessels constructed during World War II. Designed to land men and material directly onto a beach without the use of docks and wharfage to complete the task, the ship served in the southwest Pacific. LCI-713 also was part of the task force that landed elements of the Oregon National Guard during the assault of Zamboanga City, Philippines. LCI-713 was decommissioned in October 1946.



DeMoss Springs Park

Moro vicinity, Sherman County

Located in central Sherman County, the 2.5-acre DeMoss Springs Park was once the center of the small community of DeMoss Springs, a town platted by the DeMoss family. The DeMoss family, who were renowned musicians traveling the United States for more than 60 years, dedicated the park in 1897 and maintained the grounds and built several structures before donating the park to the county in 1921. The park is a lasting reminder of the DeMoss Family Lyric Bards and has been used both as a stopping place for travelers and by community members for over 110 years.



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RECENT LISTINGS IN THE *National Register* OF *Historic Places*

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Alan and Barbara Goldsmith House

Portland, Multnomah County

Completed in 1959, the Alan and Barbara Goldsmith House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places for its association with Herman Brookman, a master architect who practiced in Portland from 1923 until the early 1960s. The Goldsmith House is in the Pacific Northwest Regional style with strong Japanese stylistic influences, and represents Brookman's last major residential design before retiring. The design incorporates the essence of the style through its flow of spaces, use of natural materials, relationship of interior spaces to the outdoors, and consistent detailing to create a residence exhibiting a great sense of calm within nature.



Martin and Carrie Hill House

Hood River, Hood River County

Located in the rural Hood River Valley, the Hill House was built in 1910 for Martin and Carrie Hill, and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as an excellent example of a Dutch Colonial Revival building. The style was popular during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The house is defined by its gambrel roof, oval windows with keystones, and fanlights. The building is particularly noteworthy because the exterior and interior of the house are intact, including original pendent light fixtures and hardware.



Southern Pacific Passenger Depot

Eugene, Lane County

Constructed in 1908, the Southern Pacific Passenger Depot is associated with the early development of Eugene as a major rail shipping and distribution center, and is a well-preserved example of a railroad structure in Eugene. The Southern Pacific Passenger Depot and its associated historic office/bunkhouse were built with features derived from a number of architectural styles, including the Arts and Crafts/Craftsman movement. The building is more stylized and substantial in its construction than other depots in smaller towns, and demonstrates the importance of Eugene as a major hub on the Southern Pacific line and its position as the Lane County seat. The building is one of only five remaining masonry depots built along the original Southern Pacific main line to California.



~ MORE NATIONAL REGISTER INFORMATION ~

Click here to [view the complete nomination](#) for these and other recently listed properties in the National Register.

Click here for [general information](#) about the National Register program including Eligibility Criteria.

Looking Forward

Announcements from Heritage Programs

A new website for Heritage Programs—www.oregonheritage.org—is now up and running smoothly. Navigation links have been completely revamped offering more options for users to access information quickly. Look for other page format changes to a few individual programs in the first part of 2008.

The [Heritage Programs Events Calendar](#) is a good place to find meeting places and times for the State Advisory Commission on Historic Preservation, the Oregon Heritage Commission and the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries as well as monthly Historic Properties Open House listings and reminders for upcoming program deadlines.

Here are a few items we'd like to call your attention to now:

- ✓ The [Historic Cemeteries program](#) is offering a session on Operating Cemetery and Nonprofit Info on January 11, 2008, at the North Mall Office Building, 725 Summer Street NE, Salem, Room 124, 9am - 2pm.
- ✓ Award nominations for the Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards link must be postmarked by January 20, 2008. These awards will be presented at the annual [Oregon Heritage Conference](#) being held in Eugene on May 4-6, 2008 with the theme *Go the Distance! Sustain Oregon's Heritage*.
- ✓ The 2008-2009 Certified Local Government (CLG) grant applications will be available January 7, 2008, with an application deadline date of February 15. These matching grants are made available to CLG communities for surveys, National Register nominations, archaeological investigations, preservation planning, public education, bricks and mortar funding plus other local preservation undertakings.
- ✓ Upcoming State Advisory Commission on Historic Preservation meetings will be held February 21-22, 2008 (location TBA), and June 5-6, 2008 (location TBA). Draft nominations for the June meeting are due February 29.

And don't forget that May is National Preservation Month! Contact [Heritage Programs](#) for information about planning events in your community.