

SPRING
2011

Cultural Heritage

C O U R I E R



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The historic Arch Cape cannon (above) was recovered from underneath a thick, indistinct mass of saltwater concretions. A 3D laser scan of that mass (p. 17) has preserved details of its size and shape—valuable data for both research and the creation of an interpretive exhibit.

High Tech Archaeology: Non-destructive Techniques in Studying our Past

by Dennis Griffin, Oregon SHPO, State Archaeologist

Archaeology is the study of human history through the recovery of material evidence of the past, yet by its very nature the conventional recovery process is destructive. Cultural or archaeological resources are non-renewable and extremely fragile; the very act of excavating artifacts from the soil in order to learn something of our past destroys a portion of the history that archaeologists are trying to study.

Aside from destroying the soil matrix that holds clues to the context in which the artifacts were originally deposited, artifacts that have been recovered from the ground often undergo further destructive techniques to discover their age and relationship to the people who created them. Common scientific techniques popular in archaeology during the

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By the Numbers: Heritage Programs in 2010

by Roger Roper, OPRD Assistant Director for Heritage Programs

Though numbers don't tell the whole story, they can be illuminating. The following are some of the measurable results of our programs in 2010. Note that many of these reflect the accomplishments of partners who have benefited from our programs or grants.

<p>NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS</p> <p>New listings (including 2 historic districts): 12</p> <p>Contributing resources: 2,437</p>	<p>HISTORIC BUILDING/STRUCTURE RECORDS</p> <p>Records added to the inventory in 2010: 4,541</p> <p>Extant records updated in 2010: 4,851</p>
<p>ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE RECORDS</p> <p>Records added to the inventory in 2010: 2,943</p> <p>Extant records updated in 2010: 3,507</p>	<p>FEDERAL TAX CREDIT REHAB PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2010</p> <p>Buildings: 16</p> <p>Private reinvestment: \$126,950,685</p>
<p>SECTION 106 REVIEW CASES</p> <p>Cases: 2,772 (231 per month)</p> <p>Archaeological and historic sites involved: 3,005</p> <p>"Adverse effect" cases: 52</p>	<p>SPECIAL ASSESSMENT OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES</p> <p>New participants: 23</p> <p>Estimated rehab costs: \$16,519,300</p> <p>Specially assessed properties: 569</p>
<p>CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (NEW IN 2010/TOTAL): 3/40</p>	
<p>MAIN STREET COMMUNITIES (NEW IN 2010/TOTAL IN EACH TIER)</p> <p>Exploring Downtown (Beginner): 12/45</p> <p>Transforming Downtown (Intermediate): 7/19</p> <p>Performing Main Street (Advanced): 0/7</p>	<p>PERFORMING MAIN STREET RESULTS (JUST THE 7 PERFORMING MAIN STREET COMMUNITIES)</p> <p>Historic building rehab projects: 100</p> <p>Private reinvestment in building rehab work: \$9.78M</p> <p>Net Gain in Jobs: 218</p> <p>Net Gain in Businesses: 65</p>
<p>ATTENDEES AT OPRD/SHPO TRAINING WORKSHOPS: 771</p>	<p>RESPONDENTS TO THE HERITAGE VITALITY SURVEYS: 519</p>
<p>PAGES OF HISTORIC NEWSPAPER SCANNED BY UO UNDER THE OREGON DIGITAL NEWSPAPER PROJECT (A HERITAGE COMMISSION-SUPPORTED PROJECT): 188,000</p>	<p>HISTORIC PHOTOS SCANNED BY MUSEUM OR HERITAGE GRANT RECIPIENTS: 24,300</p>
<p>HISTORIC CEMETERIES</p> <p>Newly designated: 24</p> <p>Total: 762</p>	
<p>SELECTED OPRD HERITAGE PARKS</p>	
<p>VISTA HOUSE VISITORS: 612,496 "COUNTED" (ACTUAL VISITORS ESTIMATED TO BE MORE THAN 1 MILLION)</p>	
<p>WOLF CREEK INN VISITORS:</p> <p>Overnight stays: 1,286</p> <p>Restaurant patrons: 11,572</p>	<p>KAM WAH CHUNG VISITORS: 5,565</p>

Historic Cemeteries Program Finds High Value in Heritage Vitality Report

by Kuri Gill, Coordinator, Historic Cemeteries Program

The Oregon Heritage Vitality Report, just completed by the Oregon Heritage Commission, has already been put to good use by the [Oregon Historic Cemeteries Program](#).

The Vitality project's initial assessment was presented during the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries (OCHC) meeting in March 2010. The findings were very telling. Key concerns for cemetery organizations were longevity, collaboration, communications and funding. Their main desired activity for the next three years was long range planning.

Those concerns were reflected in the final overall results for all heritage organizations which included: funding, collaboration, economic impact of heritage, public education, trained staff and volunteer, demographics, marketing and communications and technology. These eight issues are the target issues on which the programs of OPRD's Heritage division will take action over the next few years.

Historic cemetery organizations can address all of the short-term steps listed in the Heritage Vitality Report. Those steps include clarifying missions, making priorities, setting goals and coming up with actions to achieve those goals.

To assist with those steps, the Historic Cemeteries Program created a long-range planning workbook for historic cemeteries. It is a simple outline that details all of the issues associated with historic cemeteries including the business of offering burials. The workbook was introduced in workshops in Redmond and Salem. Both workshops were available via Internet and telephone.

The workbook has been met with appreciation and praise. Judy Juntunen and Bob Keeler, OCHC commissioners, will present the workbook at the Association for Gravestone Studies national conference in July. The workbook is available on the historic cemeteries page of Heritage Programs website, www.oregonheritage.org.

Historic Cemetery Long Range Planning Workbook



Arriving at one goal is the starting point to another. ~John Dewey

Oregon Historic Cemeteries Program
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department



HIGH TECH ARCHAEOLOGY . . . continued from page 1



Figure 1: Ground Penetrating Radar

of a small section of the obsidian flake/tool, thereby destroying part of the artifact. These destructive techniques highlight the important information that can be obtained from recovered artifacts although the recovery process can be both expensive and time consuming.

Most archaeological sites cannot be completely excavated due to cost, time involved and the desire to preserve as much of a site as possible. While excavations provide detailed data at discrete locations within a site, they do little to describe overall site conditions.

Archaeologists are constantly looking for new methods of obtaining accurate data about a site that are cost effective, non-destructive, and relatively quick to obtain. The use of geophysical survey equipment—for example, ground-penetrating radar, magnetometers, conductivity meters, metal detectors—offer a less-intrusive and less-destructive method of assessing site composition than surface testing. The use of this type of equipment is gaining wide support and popularity among the discipline as it provides detailed evidence of previous activities/occupation of an area that is not visible from the surface without excavation.

Geophysical survey equipment also provides archaeologists with an efficient planning tool to target specific excavation or stabilization objectives as well as proving a means of locating buried cultural features. The two most popular terrestrial-based techniques in use today are ground penetrating radar (GPR) and magnetometry.

Ground-penetrating radar (Figure 1) uses electromagnetic pulses and records their reflections due to changes in subsurface properties. This technique is quite good at identifying buried features (e.g., fire hearths, graves) and can penetrate asphalt and reinforced concrete. Magnetometers (Figure 2) attempt to measure magnetic signatures received

past several decades include Radio-carbon Dating and Obsidian Hydration, both of which seek to determine the age of artifacts obtained from buried sites.

Radio-Carbon Dating is an absolute dating technique used to obtain the age of organic materials by measuring the rate of decay in carbon, an ingredient in all organic compounds. Although one of the most popular techniques in use today, it is destructive. Obsidian Hydration attempts to measure the hydration (water) rind on pieces of obsidian in order to date the creation of an obsidian tool such as a projectile point or knife. Since obsidian is known to absorb water at a measurable rate, it can be microscopically analyzed following the removal



Figure 2: Magnetometer

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HIGH TECH ARCHAEOLOGY . . . continued from page 4

from artifacts beneath the ground. They are particularly good at locating historic iron artifacts, features of fired earth (e.g., fire hearths, earth ovens) and detecting soil disturbances and patterned anomalies (e.g., ditches and walls).

While the above techniques work well when conducting investigations on land, other techniques have recently gained increased attention when working in submerged landscapes. To assist in the identification of submerged archaeological sites, techniques such as Bathymetric, side scan sonar, and sub-bottom profiles are now being used. The range and adaptability of these techniques have provided data that has proven useful to Oregon research projects.

Efforts to reconstruct Oregon's paleo-landscape along the state's coastline have recently gained attention from researchers here at Oregon State University. Archaeology professor Dr. Loren Davis and Masters student Steve Jenevein have attempted to reconstruct the coastal landscape that existed off the central Oregon coast prior to modern sea level.

Over time, as sea levels rose—either through a rise in the ocean's waters resulting from glacial melting or tectonic uplift from seismic disturbances—archaeological sites associated with early coastal use or occupation could have been submerged and possibly buried by ocean sediments.

Modern hydrographic survey data attempts to collect bathymetric data through the use of sonar, a sound navigation technique invented during World War II. Sonar attempts to measure distances by emitting a short pulse of high-frequency sound and measuring the time until an echo is heard. In bathymetry sonar is used to define the depth of water relative to sea level, thus bathymetric measurements can determine the topography of the ocean floor revealing its variations that containing submerged peninsulas, plains, canyons, active and extinct volcanoes, and mountain ranges.

Streams that currently flow into the Pacific Ocean have been extended into the offshore shelf with studies revealing the existence of a large low gradient coastal plain and large bay that would have provided a wide range of resources available to coastal peoples in the past. This reconstruction is useful in predicting the locations where archaeological sites may have earlier existed and where future research may best reveal intact buried cultural remains. Figure 3 at right depicts a GIS paleo-landscape reconstruction of the Central Oregon coast that charts the

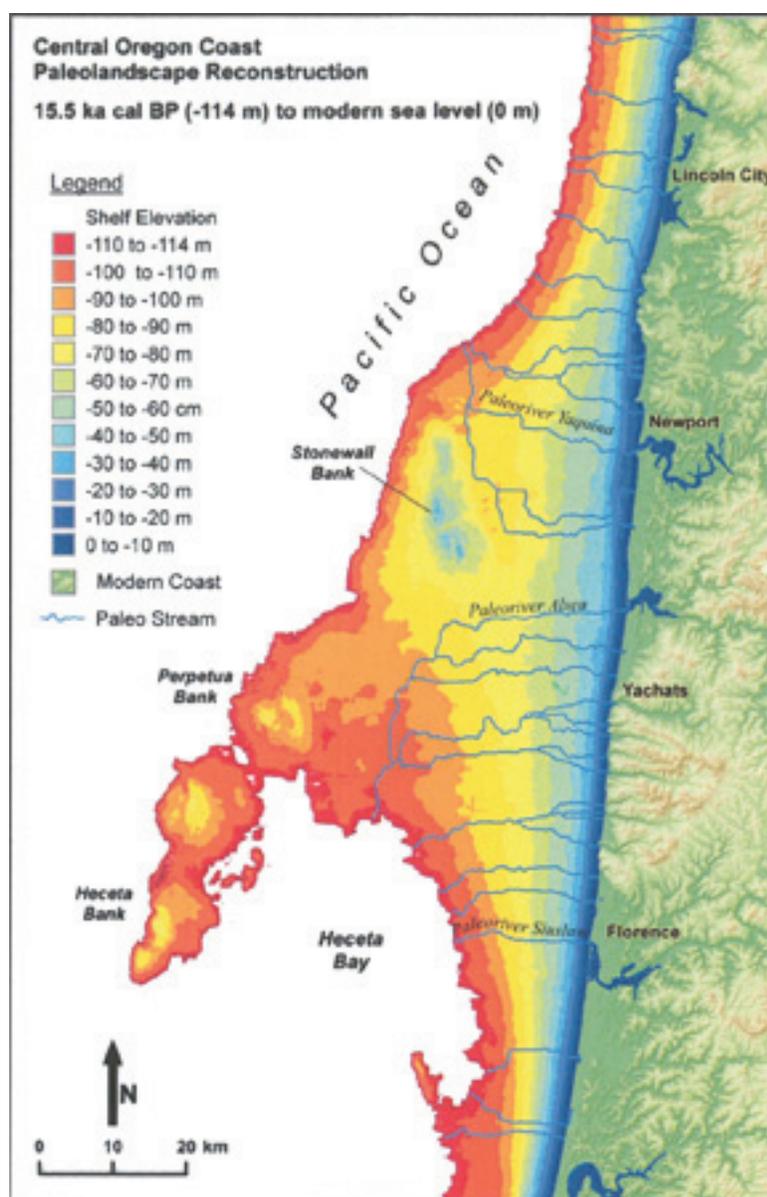


Figure 3: Paleo-landscape reconstruction of the central Oregon coast (Jenevein 2010:45)

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2010 Symposia provide new insights to Heritage staff

NAGPRA at 20: Reflections on the 1990 Landmark Law

by Nancy Nelson, Oregon State Parks Archaeologist

Note: The following is a compilation of my impressions of a wide variety of views expressed by fellow participants at a symposium looking back at the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

On November 15-16, 2010, in Washington, DC at George Washington University, tribal members, museum staff, archaeologists, and university professors, staff and students from around the country gathered for a symposium on NAGPRA, marking twenty years after the landmark law was enacted in 1990.

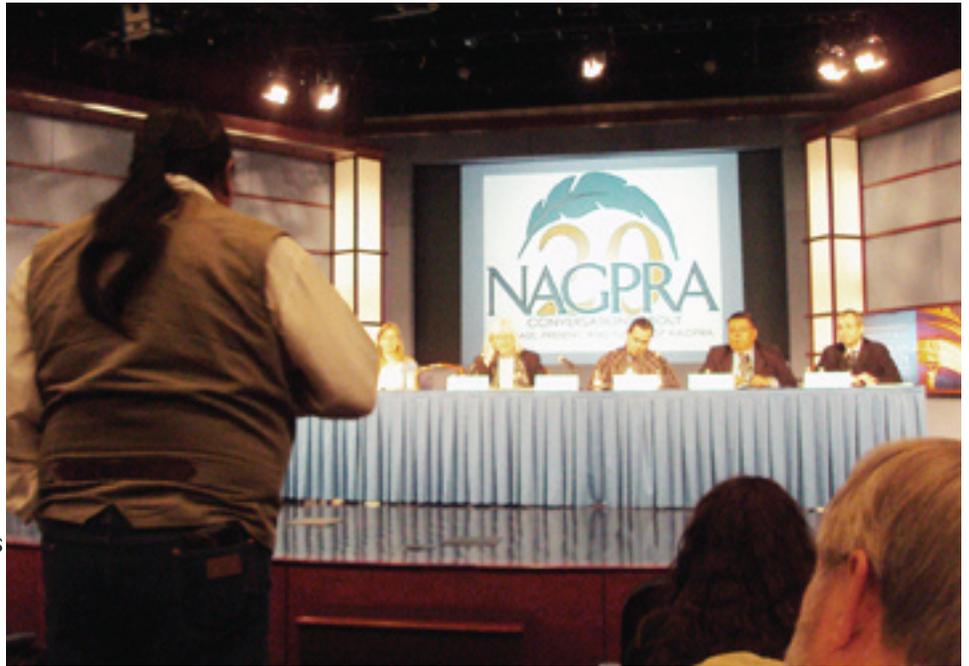
NAGPRA provides for the return of Native American human remains, funerary and sacred objects, and items of cultural patrimony to be returned to their rightful owner—at least one of the federally-recognized tribes in the United States. The law also calls for the protection of Native American grave sites.

Early in American history, during the colonization period, thousands of Native American village and burial sites were looted by “relic hunters,” and later, excavated by archaeologists. Tribal members at the forefront of writing law for Native American human rights viewed this as pillaging of their ancestors’ places and the systematic excavation by archaeologists without consultation with tribes.

In other words, these acts were seen as being a part of the colonization process as well as the taking of Indian land and the one-way transfer of ancestral remains and precious items into Euro-American homes and museums, especially taking place during a time when Native Americans were most vulnerable to being exploited.

Before NAGPRA, tribes have strived for a way to free their relatives whom they considered as being prisoners in museums. They sought to have precious items returned to their appropriate and rightful places with the hope that the passage of NAGPRA would help in a meaningful way to undo the colonization process.

Today, the question is asked: Does NAGPRA help heal the wounds of colonization? Overwhelmingly, the answer by tribal members at the symposium was “Yes.” To some tribal members, repatriated NAGPRA items are viewed as a key



Tribal members, museum staff, archaeologists, and university professors, staff and students from around the country met in Washington, DC last November to mark the 20th anniversary of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

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to the past and their future. One tribal representative noted that the NAGPRA process heals in the sense of restoring identity, and for others it heals tribal in-fighting as solutions were found to bring their ancestors home.

For various agencies, museums, archaeologists and land managers, NAGPRA compliance has created a division in some of these communities. There appears to be a split between those who honor repatriation and the protection of graves, and those who simply reject the law. In some cases, the entities who are not returning NAGPRA items are viewed by one tribal member as the “keepers of the fence for the grave robbers.”

At the symposium, several museum staff made the point that gaining administrative support for funding has often been difficult, resulting in NAGPRA compliance not being made a priority by their organizations and universities. It was suggested that a database of opponents of NAGPRA should be made available.

In addition, there were those who felt strongly that some land managers have made unethical decisions to allow burials to erode instead of stabilizing burial sites as an act of good cultural stewardship.

When determining cultural affiliation of NAGPRA items, different lines of evidence and archaeological methodology are central to understanding the twenty-year history of NAGPRA. Many tribal members as well as archaeologists believe that traditional knowledge and science should not be in opposition, but rather compliment each other.

Another perspective was put forward that scientific data “doesn’t speak, the scientist speaks,” and therefore more Native American scientists are needed. One Native American scientist noted that the actions of the scientist is what is in conflict with the Native perspective, not science itself.

For example, some archaeologists argue that we should curate all artifacts because they could yield future scientific data using new techniques. In this vein, it was suggested that non-NAGPRA artifacts could be reburied, GPS coordinates could be documented, and then the artifacts could be later excavated if archaeologists wanted to conduct research. An additional suggestion was made to use remote sensing (non-invasive technology) for scientific analysis instead of destructive archaeology, which can result in large artifact collections for curation.

Whenever agencies, museums, universities, archaeologists and land managers truly recognize and appreciate tribal traditional knowledge, repatriation and burial protection goes very smoothly and quickly. And while this has been demonstrated during the twenty years since NAGPRA has been in place, a relationship based on trust takes time and has to be developed between all parties before any traditional knowledge is provided by tribes.

Tribal members stated that when tribal traditional and spiritual knowledge is judged as not being valid, it simply reverts back to a form of colonization.

It was suggested that in order for NAGPRA to work, there needs to be respect for multiple and differing points-of-view in order to reach satisfactory consensus on hard-to-resolve issues, a goal that could not only build trustful relationships but create enduring friendships as well.

Meaningful consultation is key to NAGPRA’s intended outcome—returning deceased people back to their final resting place along with their precious items while protecting Native American burials. Today, because of successful consultations, tribes are loaning museums items to aid in the interpretation of tribal culture, and tribes are building their own museums.

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It appears that the mission of many American museums are evolving into interpreting post-colonization history instead of Indian cultures per se. When archaeologists and museum staff go to Indian country to learn about tribes, a human connection occurs, and the NAGPRA process goes more smoothly and promotes needed social change.

As well-stated by a tribal member, the law goes beyond a human right; it is a basic right to have a proper burial.

Forum Looks at Preservation of Buildings, Sites, and Structures of Industrial Revolution Era

Last November, Associate Deputy SHPO Chrissy Curran was invited to participate in an all-expenses-paid, first-of-its-kind symposium called “Industrial Heritage Retooled” at the Pocantico Conference Center in Tarrytown, New York. Oregon’s State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was the only such agency on the guest list.

Hosted by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and subsidized by the JM Kaplan Fund and the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), thirty participants representing fifteen states and two European countries gathered for three days to brainstorm the problems and solutions unique to the conservation of our industrial heritage.

Among others participating in the forum were Rich O’Connor, director of the National Park Service’s Historic American Buildings Record-Historic American Engineering Record (HABS-HAER) program; Neil Cossons, former chairman of English Heritage, the preservation arm of the British government; Theodore Prudon, architect and author from Columbia University and president of the board of directors of the U.S. Chapter of DOCOMOMO (Documentation and Conservation of the Modern Movement); and several regional-office directors of the NTHP. Also participating were university program heads, developers, writers, curators, and representatives from the Society for Industrial Archaeology.

The goal of the symposium was to develop a strategy for understanding and treating the massive volume of buildings, sites, and structures left over from the Industrial Revolution, a pivotal chapter in human history. By the nature of these properties, they are harder to preserve than domestic or commercial architecture. While mill buildings, railroads, and bridges fare better than most in the preservation arena, industrial properties like gasworks, mining landscapes, logging camps, and canal systems are harder to save. These resources present a different kind of preservation challenge for several reasons.



A first-ever symposium titled “Industrial Heritage Retooled” was held in Tarrytown, NY in November, 2010.

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The sheer scale of industrial properties can be overwhelming from a project and cost perspective. Additionally, such sites are difficult to adapt for a new use given that they were originally constructed for a specific use. Also, the character-defining features of these properties are often the industrial processes found within the structure, the power source for the processes, and the manpower necessary to operate the facilities; these “features” are much harder to incorporate into adaptive re-use projects than are the important characteristics of more traditional types of historic buildings. Finally, industrial resources tend to be “gritty, not pretty,” going largely unappreciated by the general public whose support is critical to most preservation success stories.



Industrial heritage forum participants toured the National Register-listed “Kykuit,” the Rockefeller family seasonal retreat, located on the Pocantico Conference Center grounds in Tarrytown, NY.

of the folks there didn’t really realize what a great resource a SHPO can be when it is well-staffed and engaged at the community level.”

As Curran explained to fellow Forum attendees, “Typical SHPO programs offer potential solutions.” For example, the Certified Local Government (CLG) program provides local communities with opportunities to conduct surveys and build public support; the National Register of Historic Places program can be used to select which sites to preserve as well as to qualify them for federal and/or state tax incentives; and Section 106 mitigation can include required surveys and National Register nominations for the eligible properties.

“Toss in a good database to track and use the data,” said Curran, “and you’ve got a great foundation on which developers, philanthropists, and private interests can build to preserve a threatened property.”

Forum participants took a couple of breaks from the lively discussion sessions to tour two outstanding National Trust properties located on the site of the Pocantico Conference Center, including Kykuit, the Rockefeller family seasonal retreat, and a 1948 Marcel Breuer exhibition house. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. moved the Breuer House to Pocantico in the early 1950s from its original location at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. It is currently undergoing restoration and is used for visiting scholars.

All participants agreed that the lack of data was a primary problem when dealing with industrial properties.

Why? Simply put, because a historic building cannot be properly preserved when little, or even nothing, is known about it. Compounding that problem is the fact that well documented survey data from the past did not include these kinds of resources, and there is usually no preservation funding for conducting additional surveys.

Curran was among the few participants from the U.S. West present at the conference, and the only attendee representing the state historic preservation office perspective. “It was an interesting position to be in,” remarked Curran, “because no matter what challenges we discussed—from the developer’s perspective to the educator’s, from the architect’s point of view to the curator’s—the solutions we came up with almost always had a role for a SHPO to play. Added to that, most

Transforming Springfield's Historic Downtown

by Landon Hoyt, NEDCO/Main Street Coordinator*

In 1849, visionary Elias Briggs first constructed a cabin in the heart of the Willamette Valley at the confluence of the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers. Nearly three decades later, a thriving community had been established and the city of Springfield was officially incorporated in 1885, complete with schools, churches, commercial districts, and a burgeoning lumber industry.

In 2010, Springfield celebrated its 125th birthday which didn't come without a renewed outlook on the original city blocks in its small, bustling downtown. "We are seeing that Springfield Spirit and a new buzz downtown as business owners begin to look at new opportunities in our core," said newly elected Mayor Christine Lundberg.

In late 2009, a group of merchants and small business owners in the district had been meeting to discuss ways that they could improve their downtown. Led by a representative from the local newspaper located on Main



The historic downtown of Springfield has achieved the Oregon Main Street program's designation of "Transforming Downtown."

Street in the downtown district, this group focused on joint marketing efforts and analyzing areas where there was a need for improved lighting. This began the discussion about small but visible accomplishments that could be achieved by a dedicated group of people interested in making Springfield's downtown a more inviting place for families and visitors.

The [Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation \(NEDCO\)](#), which had recently relocated to its new offices on Main Street and currently operates the Springfield Farmers' Market, took notice of this momentum and realized a renewed and revitalized downtown Springfield was directly in line with their mission of collaboratively building human and capital assets to strengthen communities.

With the organization already in place and support from merchants and community members, NEDCO—with authorization from the City of Springfield and local partners—applied for the [Oregon Main Street](#)'s "Transforming Downtown" second-tier level and was successfully designated as such in October 2010 without having to complete the first level of the program, "Exploring Downtown."

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Since its acceptance in the program, Downtown Springfield has already seen tremendous success, and the positive momentum keeps moving the community forward. The four committees of the Main Street Approach—Organization, Promotion, Design, and Economic Restructuring—have been formed and are meeting regularly. Representatives from all sorts of local partner organizations are on board and actively participating in the actions the committees are taking.

In addition, students from the University of Oregon are engaged in beneficial research projects for the downtown: a thorough inventory and analysis of downtown properties by students in the Planning Policy and Management Department, and design projects by students in the Landscape Architecture program.

With an abundance of positive press, Springfield is seeing good results as other cities in the region have begun taking note. This past October, the Eugene Storefront Art Project (ESAP) approached NEDCO and downtown merchants about placing local art in empty storefronts to fill the scattered voids along some Main Street sidewalks. This project proved so successful that even merchants without empty windows wanted art in their storefronts, too. This led to an inaugural art walk through downtown Springfield, and that has resulted in a monthly Second Friday Art Walk, attracting folks from all over the community to see local art, meet the artists, and enjoy live music, all of which has created an overall positive change of perception about the downtown area.

Another major success in downtown over the past few months has been a storefront assessment project. Partnering with the city, six Main Street merchants participated in a 50-50 match program to have their storefronts evaluated for building surfaces/paint, signage, lighting, window displays, landscaping, and storefront activation. A retail consultant from

Frontdoor Back, spent hours with merchants discussing how they could improve the look of their storefronts in easy and affordable ways. Part of the agreement with the business owners was to have them provide a brief report after three months covering recommendations that were implemented as well as how customer traffic and sales numbers might have changed.

Downtown Springfield is certainly on the move in the right direction. Successes, partnerships, new events, and a renewed perspective on the Main Street corridor are bringing new faces and businesses to the district with a positive outlook on the future.

*Hoyt is an Americore-VISTA volunteer with the NEDCO serving as the organization's Main Street coordinator.



A retail consultant with Frontdoor Back provided Springfield downtown business owners with ideas to improve the storefront of their buildings.

UO Architecture Design Studio Focuses on Portland's Block 28

by Joy Sears, SHPO Restoration Specialist

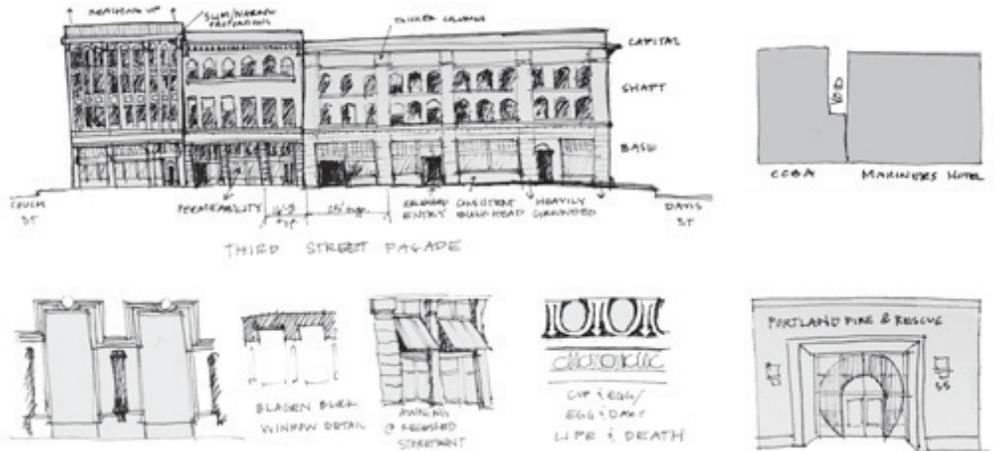
A University of Oregon (UO) architectural design studio has been focusing on a proposed development that would alter the height of certain buildings in Portland's Block 28, which is located in both the National Register-listed New Chinatown-Japantown Historic District and the National Historic Landmark-listed Skidmore-Oldtown Historic District.

Henry Kunowski, an architectural historian and former State Historic Preservation Office staff member, was the UO adjunct instructor who worked with 15 design studio students, some at the senior level of a Bachelor of Architecture degree and others who are graduate students pursuing their Master of Architecture degree.

Block 28 is bordered by NW 3rd & 4th Avenue and NW Couch & Davis Street in Couch's Addition to the City of Portland. This block contains the 1883 Sinnott Building, the 1892 Simon Building facade, the non-historic KIDA company building, the 1916 Hung Far Low Building (aka Stubbs Building), and the non-historic 1977 Great China Restaurant (aka Tuck Lung Grocery & Restaurant).

The UO design studio students were faced with a challenging task in tackling the alteration of buildings in Block 28. The Ankeny/Burnside (A/B) Development Framework Plan for Portland calls for the consideration to increase the allowable maximum height from 75- to 100-feet within this downtown block. At the same time, there are development proposals in what is referred to as "Edge Opportunity Sites" that includes the option of higher height limits up to 135-feet in some cases. The eastern half of Block 28 is designated as one of these "edge" sites; however, the site also abuts the Chinatown/Japantown Historic district and could not function as a "transitional site" and conflicts with other aspects of the A/B Plan.

Added to this is the fact that the western half of Block 28 in the Chinatown-Japantown Historic district is limited to a maximum height of 100 feet. A "Housing Bonus" of an additional twenty feet in height is under consideration in the non-historic KIDA Company and Great China buildings sites.



University of Oregon architectural design studio students made sketches of existing façade elements found in Portland's Block 28 that were incorporated in their proposed designs for new buildings being planned for the area.

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There were three objectives laid out for the students to explore:

- Design two new adjoining mixed-use developments using the “performance-based” approach to be compatible with the historic context versus a “prescriptive approach” that works with the current and proposed height limits. New developments will evaluate the impacts and effects in the adjacent historic buildings.
- Design an “adaptive re-use” of the historic Sinnott Building as either a high-end hotel or student housing with a possible roof-top addition. Use of this building will also utilize the adjacent Simon building facade. The project would need to meet the requirements of a “certified rehabilitation” for a Federal Historic Tax credit, or use the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation* and the proposed Skidmore/Oldtown Design Guidelines.
- All developments will also follow the guidelines of the “Living Building Challenge” 2.0 for environmental sustainability.

A mid-term review of the students presentations was held in Portland on February 4 at the University of Oregon Center in the White Stag Complex at 70 NW Couch Street, just a few blocks from the design project area.

Kunowski had invited a number of preservation professionals in the Portland area to view the students’ projects. After one of the reviewers had to cancel, I was asked to participate from the perspective of the project being able to meet the *Secretary of Interior’s Standards* as well as evaluating the potential for consideration as a historic tax credit project.

After a description of the various students’ projects, we broke up into review groups with each reviewer given three or four students to critique. Each student had a 20-minute critique time with their reviewer.



UO architectural design students’ drawings like this one were made of possible new buildings that could occupy selected locations within Block 28 historic downtown areas of Portland.

Overall, I was impressed with the students’ approaches; however, it was evident that several of the projects would have obstacles to clear in order to comply with the *Standards*. After the review sessions, we all reconvened to discuss the projects in general and to give each of the reviewers time to express their feelings about the projects. A final review of presentations for this studio was held in early March at the University of Oregon. Watch for a project update in the next issue of the *Courier*.

Retracing the “Free Emigrant Road”

by Glenn Harrison, Chair, Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council

On a rainy day in late August, 2010, members of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC) along with Roger Roper, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, and David Bogan, SHPO staff liaison to the Council, hiked over a difficult portion of a historic wagon route known as the Free Emigrant Road, which was a “cutoff” departure itself from the Meek Cutoff of the Oregon Trail. It was later called the Free Emigrant Road because no toll was charged.

Over 158 years ago, in the summer of 1852, a party of road viewers from the Willamette Valley followed Kalapuya, Molalla, and Klamath Indian trails to reach the Deschutes River and continued east, backtracking the 1845 route of Stephen Meek. Their intention was to create a cutoff, a new route that would promote settlement in the



Members of the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC) and other trail trekkers wait for more of their group to catch up. This is one of the few level spots of the hike last August on what is believed to be a section of the Free Emigrant Road near Oakridge.

National Historic Trails scoping meeting

The National Park Service (NPS) will be seeking public input at a scoping meeting on historic trails in The Dalles on Saturday, June 4, 2011, at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center from 10 a.m. to noon.

NPS is preparing to launch a feasibility study to evaluate some 64 routes for possible addition to the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails.

Study routes in Oregon and Washington include the Naches Pass Trail, Free Emigrant Road, the Meek Cutoff, the Applegate Route, the Cutoff to Barlow Road, the Upper Columbia River, the Cowlitz River Route, and the Whitman Mission Route.

For more information, contact David Bogan at 503-986-0671, email David.Bogan@state.or.us.

southern end of the Valley. The road would be funded, located, and built by the citizens of Lane, Linn, and Benton counties.

In 1853, road commissioners met with Elijah Elliott who was going to the Snake River to meet his family. They promised to have the planned cutoff completed later that year and persuaded him to lead a wagon train to follow the new route.

So it was that the Elliott wagon train, with 215 wagons, 615 men, and 412 women and children, was the first to follow this new route located by the road viewers. They had traveled for weeks from the Snake River near present-day Nyssa, losing stock and possessions. The emigrants had followed part of the Meek Cutoff and faced many perils of the eastern Oregon desert. Finally, they found their way to the Deschutes River near what is now Bend.

Now, with abundant water and feed for their stock,

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they were ready for the last push over the Cascade Mountains and an end to their exhausting six-month ordeal. But the experience awaiting these intrepid pioneers on the so-called “completed” cutoff from the Meek Cutoff promised by the road viewers would exact even more hardships, including the death of three souls.

In the fall of 1853, they crossed Crescent Creek and headed for Diamond Peak on their way to a new life in the Valley. However, by late October when the Elliott wagon train traveled through rugged forests over steep terrain, they found little that resembled a road. Some blazes on trees and a path of other fallen trees were their only guides over the mountains.

With supplies critically low and the threat of seasonal snowstorms, they sent riders ahead to seek help. Willamette Valley citizens loaded with 20,000 pounds of food, other supplies, and 290 head of fresh stock met the wagon train as it neared the summit, guiding the weary pioneers to safety.

Months later after the emigrants of the Elliott wagon train found suitable land to settle on and established their homes, they increased the population of the upper Willamette River Valley by 50 percent, ensuring the economic success of Eugene and other towns in the surrounding area.



Above, Del Spencer, curator of the Oakridge Museum and long-time local researcher of the Free Emigrant Road (FER) route, led a group of OHTAC members on a hike along a rugged section of the historic trail last summer. Left, Retired land surveyor Keith Leavitt joined Spencer's cadre of volunteers in 2007 to further aid their efforts in establishing the most likely route followed by the ill-fated Elijah Elliot 1853 wagon train.



The Free Emigrant Road was used again in 1854 by the William Macy wagon train and continued to be traveled for the next ten years, bringing more emigrants to a lush Valley that would entice so very many to travel so very far during the era of western migration in the United States.

The route of this old road can still be seen in places especially owing to the tireless efforts of Del Spencer who along with Ike Woodruff, Keith

Leavitt, and other dedicated volunteers have spent decades searching for, painstakingly surveying, and ultimately finding traces of the Free Emigrant Road. A detailed map of the wagon route that was created from their amazing research is now a part of the SHPO's cultural resources database.

The work of folks like these local volunteers provides invaluable assistance to OHTAC members, who continually collect information on [Oregon's 16 designated historic trails](#). By recording and compiling such data for the SHPO, OHTAC's work in turn aids researchers as well as developers as they seek to identify sensitive trail locales throughout Oregon that are historically and recreationally significant.

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change in sea level over the past 15,000 years (Jenevein 2010:45).

Using a similar technique in the lower Columbia River, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been responsible for collecting hydrographic data of the river in order to map obstructions in the sea channel that may be dangerous to ocean-going vessels. Side scan sonar is a category of sonar system that is used to efficiently create an image of large areas of the sea floor. This tool is used for mapping the seabed for a wide variety of purposes, including creation of nautical charts and detection and identification of underwater objects. Side scan sonar uses a sonar device that emits conical or fan-shaped pulses down toward the seafloor and may be towed from a surface vessel, submarine, or mounted on a ship's hull.

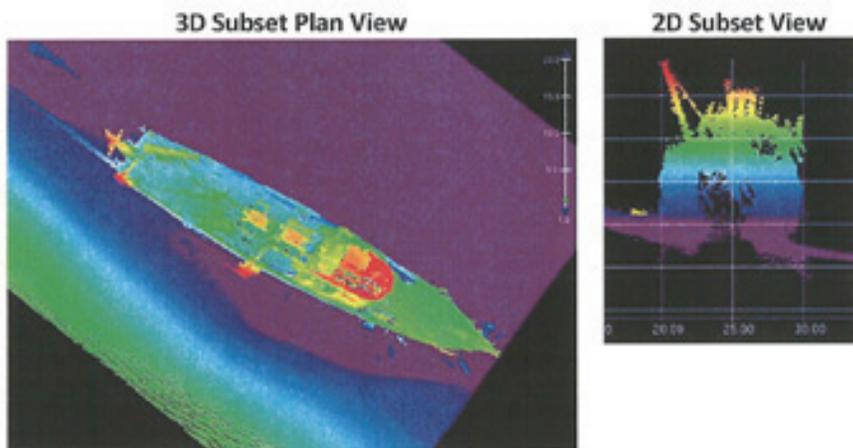


Figure 4: Sonar reading of submerged shipwreck.

Figure 4 above reveals a submerged fishing trawler identified during a recent side scan sonar investigation in the Columbia River. The details of this vessel highlight the usefulness of this technique to archaeologists in identifying shipwrecks and other submerged resources.

Sonar data proved very beneficial to archaeology in late 2008 when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sought to

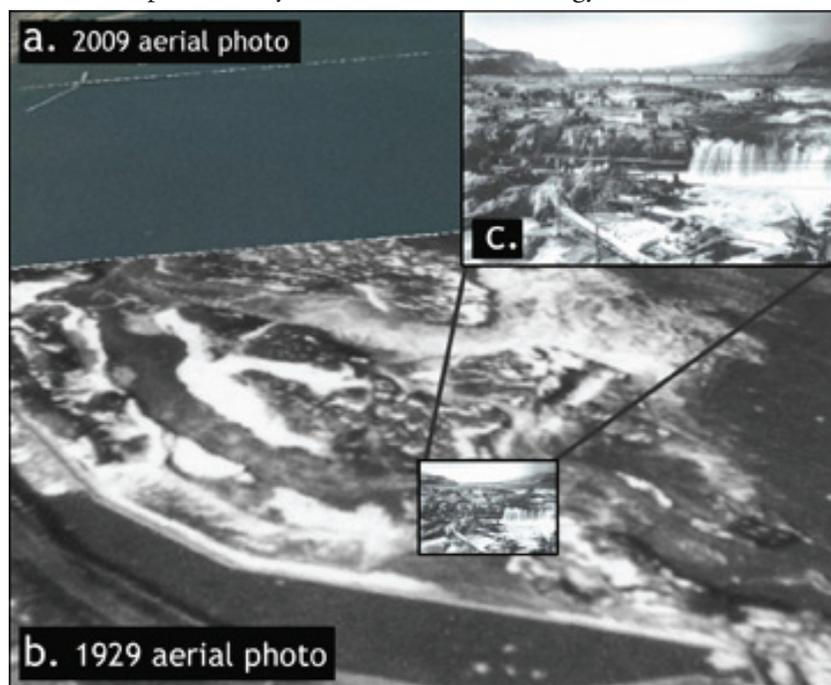


Figure 5: 1929 and 2009 aerial photographs of Celilo Falls (a. and b.) and undated photo of historic native fishing activities (c.) (Wasco County Historical Museum 1997)

substantiate the integrity of Celilo Falls, a unique natural feature within the Columbia River that was the site of intense Native fishing and trading for over 11,000 years. Celilo Falls, located east of The Dalles, was inundated by the construction of The Dalles Dam in 1957. Legend had it that the Corps of Engineers destroyed the falls during the construction phase of the dam. Blasting for excavations was said to have destroyed the falls, submerged fishing platforms, and erased traces of the nearby native settlements, including the villages of Celilo and Skin.

Recent detailed sonar maps along this stretch of the Columbia (Oregon Field Guide 2008) have revealed that the falls remain intact beneath the murky waters of the Columbia River. Figure 5 at left overlays a portion of a 1929 aerial photograph of the Celilo Falls area over a modern aerial

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photograph of current river level. An early historic photograph of Indian fishing activities in this stretch of the river reveals the many fishing structures and platforms that once existed and of which evidence may still remain beneath the river silt that has covered the area since inundation. If ground disturbing activities are ever planned in these areas, the use of sonar and historic photographs may prove invaluable in attempting to integrate the wealth of data available in recreating ethnohistoric land use patterns.

While sonar is proving very useful to archaeology in providing a 3D view of submerged resources and landforms, another state-of-the-art technology is proving useful in mapping above-ground resources in much the same way. High definition 3D laser scanners are now creating models of cultural features that can be manipulated and studied in detail while their original size or weight would prove too restrictive for acquiring the same data. Such scanners have proven useful to archaeologists in a variety of settings from creating models of the giant Easter Island statues to highlighting the well-worn designs in native carved petroglyphs.

Another example of the use of high definition 3D laser scanners can be seen in the scan of one of the concretion-covered cannon recovered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) from the ocean near Arch Cape in the waters of the state's north coast. OPRD will be able to create a life size model of the scanned version of the cannon that can be displayed along with the actual cannon after the conservation process has been completed. What better way to interpret the history of the cannon and its journey from its manufacture in England (see the [Fall issue of the](#)



Figure 7: Arch Cape Cannon after removal of concretions.



Figure 6: 3D laser scan of concretion-clad Arch Cape Cannon.

[2010 Courier](#)) to its discovery on the Oregon Coast. In addition, researchers will be able to study the effects of iron remaining in an ocean environment during a duration of at least 150 years.

A 3D scan was created to document the shape and size of the concretion-covered cannon (Figure 6 above) when it was first discovered near Arch Cape on the Oregon Coast in 2009. After the staff at Texas A&M removed the concretions during the conservation process, the actual cannon was revealed (Figure 7, at left) providing an image comparison with the indistinct mass of concretions that had been built up on the

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cannon's surface while submerged for many decades.

While it is true that retrieving valuable information on early human lifeways through archaeological excavations proves destructive to the portion of the site being tested, archaeologists are busy searching for new and improved techniques to focus such excavations on features that will gain the most information for the least amount of effort. Time will tell what new techniques will be discovered in the future that will continue to improve on current technologies.

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Wasco County Historical Museum

Celilo Falls: Remember Thunder. Photos from the Collections of Wilma Roberts. Wasco County Historical Museum, The Dalles, Oregon.

2011 Elisabeth Potter Historic Preservation Advocacy & Education Awards

Application forms for the 2011 Elisabeth Potter Historic Preservation Advocacy and Education Awards are now available for download at www.oregonheritage.org. The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) gives these monetary awards each year.

Award funds will be distributed among recipients for the express purpose of helping them cover travel expenses to a historic preservation-related conference or workshop chosen by the award winners and approved by the SHPO. Eligible travel expenses include transportation (e.g., air fare, airport shuttle, personal vehicle mileage), lodging, meals, and registration fees.

The SHPO encourages applications from every region of Oregon. Awards are competitive and will be based on information provided in the application.

Deadline for submission of applications is 5 p.m. on May 31, 2011. Award winners should be announced by mid-June. Mail a signed and completed application form to David Bogan, SHPO/Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite C, Salem, OR 97301. For more information, email David.Bogan@state.or.us, or call (503) 986-0671.