

# A Guide to Using Multiple Property Documents in Oregon



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## What is a Multiple Property Document or MPD?

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture. The records are maintained in Washington, D.C. by the National Park Service. Over 2,000 properties located in all 36 counties of Oregon are listed in the National Register. Oregon listings presently include over 150 historic districts. The most common way to nominate a property or historic district to the National Register is to prepare a nomination form. The significance, which may include multiple themes, and physical characteristics for the subject properties are addressed within a single nomination application form.

Properties may also be nominated to the National Register using the Multiple Property Document (MPD) process, which creates a cover document that can be used to evaluate the National Register eligibility of related properties. An MPD identifies common themes, trends, and patterns of history for a group of related properties—like historic lighthouses or bridges. An MPD's geographic scope can be limited to a single neighborhood or community or can cover multiple counties or states. Ultimately, an MPD provides the framework for either the simultaneous or future listings of related properties.

The National Register program provides guidance on MPDs in its [Bulletin 16B \*How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form\*](#). Although the bulletin was last updated in 1999, the information is still relevant and useful.

**Always reach out to staff at the Oregon SHPO before starting on a National Register nomination, including an MPD, for their guidance!**



## How to Use an MPD

Familiarize yourself with the MPDs that cover resources in your community, and don't overlook those statewide MPDs, like *Oregon New Deal Resources from the PWA and WPA* and *Black Historic Resources In Oregon*.

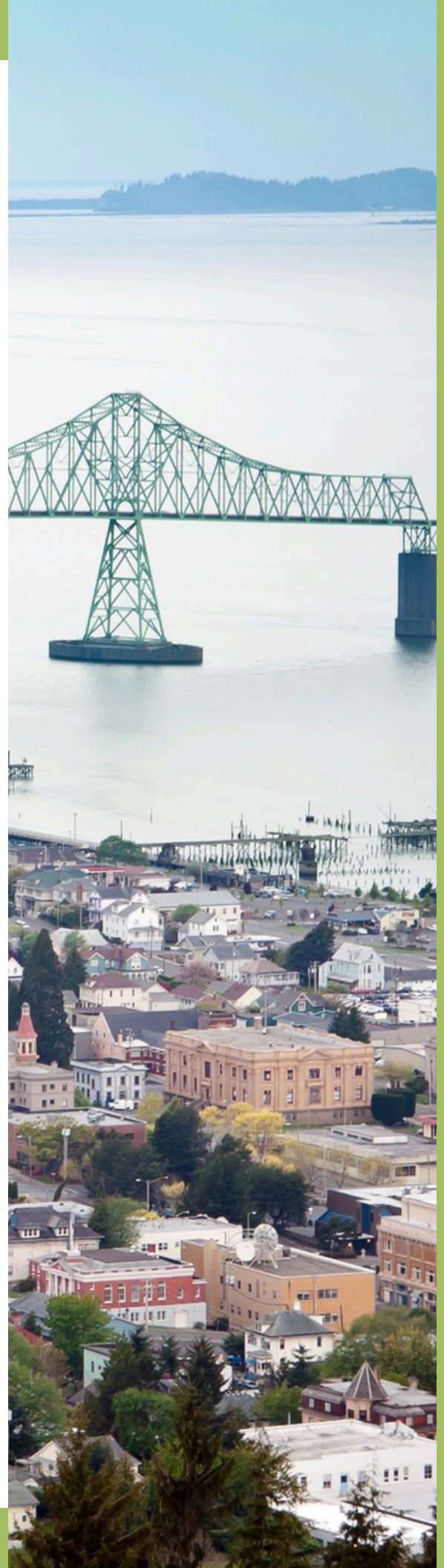
If you think a property may fit with an existing MPD, begin by confirming that the resource is within the geographic scope and matches with a property type noted in the MPD. If so, reach out to the SHPO staff to discuss the registration requirements for the property and to confirm its eligibility before preparing a nomination.

A nomination preparer should use the MPD in a couple of ways—as a source of information to be referenced in the text like any other source and also as a guide for justifying a property's significance and eligibility under the registration requirements.

These MPDs are rich with history and can be used as reference material for nominations that aren't directly linked to the MPD or for other needs, like compliance reviews or interpretive projects.

### CLGs with MPDs specific to their community (as of 5/2025) are:

- Ashland
- Bend
- Dayton
- Deschutes County
- Enterprise
- Eugene
- Forest Grove
- Linn County
- Oregon City
- Portland
- Redmond
- Silverton





An aerial photograph showing a landscape with mountains in the background, a valley with fields and trees in the middle ground, and a residential area with houses and a parking lot in the foreground.

## How to Get Started

If you have identified an MPD that you want to use, begin by confirming that the resource you want to prepare a National Register nomination for is within the geographic scope and matches with a property type noted in the MPD.

### Complete a Historic Resource Record (HRR)

The first step is to complete a Historic Resource Record (HRR). This form collects information on the property including a brief history, known changes, and exterior and interior photographs. Submit it to SHPO to begin a conversation on next steps.

### Research the Historic Resource

Utilize the available resources on the Oregon SHPO website under “How to List a Property” and Oregon’s National Register Handbook to pull together the individual sections in the National Register nomination form.

### Reference the MPD’s Historic Context(s)

Wherever possible, utilize the historic context from Section E of the MPD in preparing your National Register nomination. Either summarize it and include a reference to the MPD, or excerpt entire sections and cite the MPD using specific page numbers.

### Analyze the Registration Requirements

The registration requirements in the MPD are found in Section F. These requirements typically discuss key physical characteristics, significant associative qualities, and integrity as they relate to the property type to help nomination preparers assess a property’s eligibility. Use these requirements to compare the nominated historic resource with like properties and make informed judgements about the resource’s importance and eligibility.



An aerial photograph of a town nestled at the foot of a large, arid, brown hill. A large body of water, likely a reservoir or lake, is situated behind the town. The foreground is filled with green trees and residential houses. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.

# QUESTIONS?

**Contact National Register staff with the Oregon  
State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**

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