

Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) Forms

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 115 historic districts. For information on the National Register process in Oregon, please see Heritage Bulletin #4.



Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) Forms

A Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) form is a type of tool developed by the National Park Service to streamline the nomination of related historic properties to the National Register. An MPD form identifies common themes, trends, and pat-

terns of history for a group of related properties—like historic lighthouses or bridges—and provides a clear set of guidelines, called “registration requirements,” to help determine which of those properties are eligible for the National Register. 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 nomination of related properties.

The MPD form is divided into nine sections, A through I. Sections A through D comprise the front matter, including the title, preparer information, and certification by the State Historic Preservation Officer and National Park Service, and Section I is the bibliography. Sections E through H make up the bulk of the MPD form.

Section E includes the historic context(s) which present the history, patterns, and trends that relate to and tie together the group of properties that are the subject of the MPD. Historic contexts provide information about the historical patterns and trends that produced individual properties. They also help us understand how a property fits into the broader story, and they serve as the

foundation for decisions made about the identification, eligibility, and treatment of historic properties.

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Section F is where the group of related properties are divided into property types that are defined by common characteristics. This section defines guidelines, called registration requirements, for evaluating each property type. Most MPDs include general registration requirements that apply to all the property types covered by the document, with additional specific requirements for each property type.

Section G provides the geographic boundaries of the area covered by the MPD, and it explains why those boundaries were selected.



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Section H summarizes the methods used to develop the MPD, including how surveys were conducted, how historic contexts and property types were identified, and how registration requirements were determined.

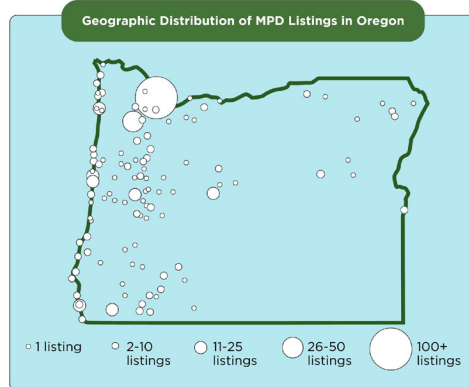
If you're submitting a new MPD form, it must be accompanied by at least one individual nomination.

Together, an MPD and its related nomination(s) are called a Multiple Property Submission (MPS).

MPDs for Oregon Properties

There are more than 50 existing MPDs that can be used to nominate Oregon properties or as reference tools. A complete list is available on our website here: <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/pages/tools.aspx#mpd>. The following examples illustrate the breadth of topics, time periods, and geographic areas that these MPDs represent:

- The Oregon Trail, Oregon, 1840-1880 MPD
- Carey and Reclamation Acts Irrigation Projects in Oregon, 1901-1978 MPD
- Oregon National Guard Armories, 1888-1978 MPD
- Black Historic Resources in Oregon, 1788-2022 MPD
- Oregon New Deal Resources from the Public Works Administration (PWA) and Works Progress Administration (WPA) MPD
- Craftsman Bungalows in Deschutes County MPD
- Native American Archeological Sites of the Oregon Coast MPD



- Historic Architecture in Silverton, Oregon, and its Environs MPD
- Historic Residential Resources of Redmond, Oregon MPD

Benefits of Using an MPD

MPDs are useful for a variety of purposes. First, MPDs can be used as resources for nominating properties to the National Register. If it appears a property may fit with an existing MPD, begin by confirming that the property is within the geographic scope and matches with a property type in the MPD. If so, reach out to SHPO staff to discuss the registration requirements for the property type and to confirm eligibility before preparing a nomination. A nomination preparer should use the MPD's historic context (Section E) as a source of information to be referenced in the text, like any other source, and the registration requirements (Section F) as a guide for justifying a property's eligibility.

MPDs can also be useful tools in helping determine whether a property is eligible for the National Register. For example, if your compliance reviews involve residential properties, there are several residential-focused MPDs that offer excellent guidance on assessing integrity and determin-

ing eligibility. This could be useful even if the resource isn't within the MPD's geographic scope. See, for example, the Craftsman Bungalows of Deschutes County MPD or the Historic Residential Resources of Redmond MPD.

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

How to Create and Use an MPD

The National Register of Historic Places program published guidance on MPDs in its Bulletin 16B, *How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form* (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB16B-Complete.pdf>). The bulletin was last updated in 1999, but the information is still applicable and useful. You can find it on the web simply by searching "National Register Bulletin 16B."

In terms of **creating or amending an MPD**, it is best to familiarize yourself with Bulletin 16B and reach out to SHPO staff to discuss the feasibility and possible scope of producing a new or amended MPD. The cornerstone of an MPD is survey data coupled with historical research, which together inform the MPD's geographic scope, timeframe, property types, and registration requirements. So, if there is no relevant survey data or if the survey data is outdated, you will need to build the collection and anal-



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ysis of survey data into your research plan. You must also identify at least one property to nominate along with the new or amended MPD.

It is important to note that producing an MPD is a longer and more intensive effort than drafting an individual nomination, but the work to establish clear registration requirements for properties associated with the MPD can make preparation of subsequent nominations more efficient. Given the complexity of MPDs, it is always best to contact SHPO staff before beginning a new one.

When it comes to ***using an MPD to nominate a property or historic district***, it is important to familiarize yourself with both the subject property and the MPD, especially the associated property types and registration requirements in Section F, to confirm the subject property is eligible under the selected MPD. It's a good idea to confirm this with SHPO staff before proceeding with a nomination form.

Historic Districts vs. MPDs

It's important to understand the difference between historic districts and MPDs, as they are not interchangeable. Historic districts are typically defined by a contiguous boundary that encompasses a concentration of resources—like a downtown, neighborhood, or ranch—that are historically or aesthetically unified. Resources within historic districts are significant as components of the district and may not be individually eligible for the National Register.

In contrast, resources nominated using an MPD must meet the specific registration requirements outlined by



that MPD. Each nomination written using an MPD must demonstrate the significance of the resource and be able to stand on its own, independent of surrounding resources.

Furthermore, resources nominated using an MPD are not required to be geographically contiguous. For example, a WPA-constructed post office in Bend and a PWA-funded school in Salem can both be nominated using the Oregon New Deal Resources from the PWA and WPA, provided they meet the MPD's registration requirements.

Additional Information:

- State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department 725 Summer Street NE, Suite C Salem, Oregon 97301
- Oregon Heritage Outreach Initiatives: Multiple Properties Documentation webpage: <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/pages/tools.aspx#mpd>

- Oregon Heritage National Register webpage: <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/pages/national-register.aspx>
- National Park Service National Register website: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>
- For general information about the National Register of Historic Places contact Val Ballestrem: (503) 930-1206 Val.Ballestrem@oprd.oregon.gov
- National Register Program Staff: Caitlyn Abrahms, National Register Program Coordinator (503) 201-0454 Caitlyn.Abrahms@oprd.oregon.gov



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