

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is used for documenting property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

 x New Submission Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

The Paid Labor of Women in Oregon: 1878–1990

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Historic Context I: Agriculture

Historic Context II: Commerce and Professional Services

Historic Context III: Education

Historic Context IV: Health

Historic Context V: Industry/Processing/Extraction

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D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (formerly 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

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E. Statement of Historic Contexts

(if more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)

INTRODUCTION

Oregon women have increasingly supported themselves, their families, and the economy through paid labor since the second half of the nineteenth century. Some roles, like teaching, nursing, and domestic positions, reliably hired women through the twentieth century. Other paid occupations emerged in tandem with Oregon's population growth, economic events, shifting labor regulations, and evolving cultural norms that increased women's independence. Women occupied supporting and domestic or seasonal agricultural roles in the primarily agricultural nineteenth century economy. Demand for industrial workers, in places like the growing canneries industry, opened new opportunities and revealed inadequacies in working conditions. At the turn of the century, women were recruited to work in clerical and professional services positions. World War II provided opportunities for women to fill men's vacated jobs in manufacturing, among other industries. After the war, attitudes towards women's rights shifted, and women had expanding access to advanced education, specialized careers like law, architecture, and healthcare, as well as professional positions in offices. Women of color and women of underrepresented groups faced and continue to face legal and social limitations to occupation access.

Paid and Unpaid Labor

This Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) form focuses on labor for which women were paid. Paid labor included jobs for which women were hired and compensated, such as domestic service, clerical, and administrative roles; income-generating work performed in places like boardinghouses, farms, and restaurants; and professional careers requiring higher education, including teaching, law, healthcare, and architecture. In most cases, these roles provided the primary income for a single woman or the primary or supplementary income for a family. Most paid work was and is performed outside of the personal home; however, into the twentieth century, women may have had home offices, home-based practices, or taken in work to be completed at home. Some labor in education and healthcare was undertaken by women in religious orders who were not compensated with a personal paycheck but were compensated with necessities for living; for the purpose of this evaluation, this is considered a type of paid labor.

Women also made significant contributions to Oregon's towns, communities, and individual homes through unpaid labor. Unpaid labor may include women managing the domestic sphere, agricultural chores on a family farm, and social and civic organizing that established community resources like libraries and advocated for community improvements. Women's unpaid labor was and is critical to Oregon's communities and economy; however, it is outside the scope of this MPD (see **Section H**).

Laws, Regulations, and Major Events

Women's rights movements and advocacy during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries are a complex history, with varied visions of what women's equality looked like. Issues including voting rights, citizenship, working conditions and wages, immigration, and education were prioritized differently by groups of women across the state. Some women advocated for women's equality with men, while protectionist reformers viewed women as mothers and wives who deserved different protections, especially in the workplace. The major laws directly impacting all women's paid work in Oregon include the Married Women's Property Act of 1878, the minimum hours law of 1903, the minimum wage law of 1913, the 1935 National Labor Relations Act, the 1949 Fair Employment Practices Act, the 1953 State Public Accommodations Act, the 1955 Equal Pay for Equal Work Law, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, and the 1979 Oregon Supreme Court judicial proceeding, *Gunther v. Washington County*. These legislative changes occurred within the larger context of judicial proceedings,

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community organization, advocacy initiatives, and various efforts led by women in the United States. Most of the legislation prior to World War II only advanced opportunities and conditions for white women.

Some women had early opportunities for land ownership during the nineteenth century. To encourage settlement of Oregon, Congress passed the Oregon Donation Land Law in 1850, which made married white women co-owners of their husbands' property. In the statute, persons of partial Native American descent, and consequently their spouses, were also included. This unique federal land act allowed the 640-acre claims received under the 1843 Oregon Provisional Government to be split evenly between a white or part-Native American man and his wife. It was the only federal land-grant act that allowed married women to hold property titles.¹ In 1853, widows became eligible for individual land claims.² Two decades later, the state passed the Married Women's Property Act of 1878. It was partly motivated to protect women from their husbands' debt, and when adopted, it allowed married women in Oregon to "manage, transfer, and write wills." The act also allowed married women to control their own wages and to sue or be sued by others.³ This paved the way for a married woman in Oregon to operate businesses and own property independent of her husband. The same year, all Oregon taxpayers, including taxpaying women, could vote in school elections.⁴

From the late nineteenth century through the Progressive Era, which ended in the 1920s, Oregon was a national leader in protective labor legislation for women. Tensions in Portland's laundry industry led to unionization and a demand for better working conditions. It resulted in Sessions Law 1903, passed by the Oregon Legislature, which limited women's workdays to 10 hours in select industries, including laundry and factories. The legislation impacted about 20 percent of working women, regardless of race. The law also required that women be provided with seats and an opportunity to sit while not actively engaged in work. The law differentiated between the work of men and women.⁵ In 1905, Curt Muller's Grand Laundry (**320 N 17th Avenue** in Portland) required Emma Gotcher to work longer than 10 hours.⁶ She filed in court, and the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the statute in *Muller v. Oregon* in 1908. The summary states that "As healthy mothers are essential to vigorous offspring, the physical wellbeing of woman is an object of public interest. The regulation of her hour of labor falls within the police power of the State, and a statute directed exclusively to such regulation does not conflict with the due process or equal protection clauses of the Fourteenth

¹ Richard H. Chused, "The Oregon Donation Act of 1850 and Nineteenth Century Federal Married Women's Property Law," *Law and History Review*, Volume 44 (1984).

² Women fought for their independence through these laws into the early twentieth century. The formerly enslaved Letitia Carson, who moved to Oregon with her white partner David Carson and their children, settled a 640-acre homestead where they raised hogs and cattle and grew potatoes and fruit trees. Upon his death and in the absence of a will, a neighbor administered auctioning and distributing the property. Letitia sued the estate executor and was awarded back wages. She used the money to purchase a 160-acre farm in Douglas County since the Homestead Act of 1862 granted single women and widows the right to file land claims and improve land. Dr. Marie Equi, one of the first women doctors in Oregon, claimed 121 acres of land with her Betsey Holcomb under the Homestead Act of 1862. Zachary Stocks, "Letitia Carson," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2023.

<https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/carson—letitia/>; William G. Robbins, "Oregon Donation Land Act," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, The Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/oregon_donation_land_act/#.ZF6Z29bMIbY.

³ "The Evolution of Women's Rights in Oregon," On Her Own Wings: Oregon Women and the Struggle for Suffrage. Chused, "The Oregon Donation Act of 1850 and Nineteenth Century Federal Married Women's Property Law".

⁴ Previously in 1862, widowed women with taxable property and children in a school district could vote in school board elections. Although the 1878 statute allowed more women to vote in school elections, systemic barriers that prevented property ownership to all women, especially women of color and women of underrepresented groups, limited access to these elections. Oregon Office of the Secretary of State, *The Evolution of Women's Rights in Oregon*, 2025; Kimberly Jensen, "Woman Suffrage in Oregon," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2023.

⁵ Katie Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (2024), 24–25.

⁶ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 152.

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Amendment.”⁷ The case marked the beginning of a period when increased measures were taken to protect women workers across the country.⁸

Building on this framework, Oregon women began to gain additional voting rights and fight for fair working conditions. In 1912, Oregon women achieved the right to vote, eight years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. However, Native American and Asian American women would not be fully enfranchised until 1924 and the 1950s to 1960s, respectively.⁹ Native Americans were prohibited from citizenship until the Snyder Act of 1924. Asian Americans were prohibited from citizenship until the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952. Literary tests, poll taxes, and intimidation tactics were intended to dissuade Black and Native women from voting. Many Latinx and women of underrepresented groups were also deterred from voting until the 1975 Voting Rights Act prohibited language discrimination.¹⁰

Almost immediately after enfranchisement, mostly white women used their ballots and voices to influence labor policy and elect women to office. For example, in 1914, Marian Towne of Jackson County became Oregon’s first female state legislator. Women were appointed to positions like county factory inspectors, school board members, and school superintendents. Attempts to organize female workers into unions met resistance since most trade unions were male-only, but women formed some labor associations. The Laundry Workers Union Local 90 in Portland, which included many women, waged a successful strike in 1902 for better hours; this was a prelude to the 10-hour law. In 1919, women telephone operators across Oregon walked off the job as part of a national strike, demanding equal pay with men and the right to unionize.¹¹

Around this time, the Consumer’s League of Oregon began to investigate women’s experiences at work. The effort, led by Caroline Gleason, discovered that a woman’s secondary income was essential for many families. The country’s first minimum wage law for women was passed in Oregon in 1913 as a result. The Industrial Welfare Commission (IWC) was also established to monitor conditions and standards. It had authority to set minimum wages, maximum hours, and working conditions for women, reinforcing a system that improved baseline labor standards while also entrenching gender distinctions in employment law. The law was not universally embraced. Some women workers, like the mill workers at Thomas Woolen Mills in Salem, were concerned that men would displace them in the workforce if women’s shorter workdays resulted in lower production.¹²

Protectionist laws did little to assuage gender inequalities or discrimination in working environments. All women had limited access to male-dominated industries or professions requiring higher education, like law. Restrictive laws for minority and immigrant populations created additional barriers for women of color. The 1923 Oregon Alien Land Act prevented people ineligible for citizenship, including Japanese and Chinese immigrants, from owning or leasing property.¹³ This limited their ability to own businesses. Even without laws, systemic racism and discrimination were prevalent in the workplace and inhibited advancement and opportunities for women of color and immigrants.¹⁴

Black women, men, and children in Oregon faced discrimination and exclusionary laws and segregation starting in the settlement era. Nineteenth century laws banned Black settlement, legal residence and interracial marriage. Oregon was an inhospitable environment for Black people; however, some did settle in the state.

⁷ Muller v. Oregon, 208 U.S. 412 (1908), U.S. Supreme Court, (Justia, February, 1908).

⁸ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 26.

⁹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 152.

¹⁰ PBS, Not All Women Gained the Vote in 1920, 2020.

¹¹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 25–28, 31, 151.

¹² Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 29.

¹³ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 152.

¹⁴ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 21.

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Industries including mining, timber, and the railroad drew Black workers, predominantly men, and encouraged settlement in certain company towns, such as Maxville and Vernonia. Most Black families moved to large cities, especially Portland, as they were excluded from rural areas by land practices and were largely unwelcome, as evidenced by restrictions like Sundown Laws. In Portland and other cities, many Black workers began working in service and domestic roles, and some went on to own their own businesses despite major obstacles. In the 1920s, Oregon's highly visible Ku Klux Klan grew to the largest west of the Mississippi. The first chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in this region was organized to combat racist efforts. Black businesses and employment suffered tremendously during the Great Depression. Small clusters of Black families settled in towns across Oregon as they were recruited for military efforts during World War II. After the war, Black Oregonians increasingly moved into Portland. Postwar social activism led to several improvements to Black life in Oregon: a 1949 fair employment law, a public accommodations law in 1953, and a fair housing law in 1957.¹⁵

After the Great Depression, the 1935 National Labor Relations Act, which allowed workers to join unions, shifted the trajectory of American labor. In Oregon, the Congress of Industrial Organizations supported women workers to unionize. Three years later, Congress passed the Fair Labor Standards Act. It set the minimum wage to 25 cents per hour and the workweek to 40 hours for most manufacturing workers.¹⁶

By the mid-twentieth century, the legal approach to women's labor in Oregon and nationally shifted away from protection based on sex toward formal equality and anti-discrimination, reflecting broader constitutional and civil rights changes. While earlier protective laws persisted for decades, they increasingly conflicted with emerging norms that viewed sex-based distinctions as discriminatory rather than benevolent. Federal developments, especially post–World War II labor reforms and civil rights jurisprudence, undermined the logic of *Muller v. Oregon*. In 1949, the Oregon Legislature passed a broader Fair Employment Practices Act, prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, religion, or origin by employers of five or more and by labor unions.¹⁷ Four years later, Oregon passed the State Public Accommodations Act, which prohibited racial discrimination and allowed for African American women and men to take the first steps into entering professional work.¹⁸ Eight years before the U.S. Congress passed a comparable law, Oregon Governor Paul Patterson signed the 1955 Equal Pay for Equal Work Law, requiring equality of wages between men and women for equal work.¹⁹

In the 1960s and 1970s, Oregon further aligned its labor regime with equality principles rather than gendered protection. This transition accelerated as courts and lawmakers recognized that restrictions aimed solely at women limited economic opportunity and reinforced occupational segregation. This shifting consciousness led to the gradual dismantling of women-only labor standards and the integration of women into gender-neutral wage, hour, and workplace protections by the late twentieth century. Federally, the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 further prohibited employment discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin.²⁰ In 1972, Title IX of the Educational Act prohibited colleges and universities from excluding women from any degree or other program, opening the door for them to enter previously male-dominated fields that required advanced degrees.²¹ The 1979 Oregon Supreme Court case, *Gunther v. Washington County* where four female County of Washington, Oregon, prison guards sued their employers for

¹⁵ Darrell Millner, "Black People in Oregon," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2025.

¹⁶ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 50.

¹⁷ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 64.

¹⁸ Christin L. Hancock, "Trudy Rice's Story: Nursing and Race in Oregon History," *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, Volume 114, No. 2 (2013).

¹⁹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 71.

²⁰ Oregon Office of the Secretary of State, *The Evolution of Women's Rights in Oregon*.

²¹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 72.

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lower compensation than male counterparts, broadened the concept of equal pay for equal work to include comparable worth.²²

The evolution of women's rights and work in Oregon reflects a broader national struggle for equality and recognition. Legislative milestones, community organizing, and persistent advocacy shaped the possibilities for women's economic and civic participation, yet these gains were not and are not experienced equally by all. The layering of protective laws, followed by a shift toward formal equality, demonstrates both the progress made and the enduring barriers that women, especially women of color and immigrant women, have faced. The legacy of these movements is visible today in the ongoing pursuit of workplace fairness, equal opportunity, and the dismantling of systemic discrimination. Understanding this history is essential to appreciating the complexities of gender, race, and labor, and it underscores the vital role that diverse groups of Oregon women played, and continue to play, in shaping a more equitable society.

Overview of Women's Work in Oregon

When white settlers arrived in Oregon during the 1830s and 1840s, settling in present-day Astoria on the coast and in the Willamette Valley, they were largely occupied with setting up homesteads. Women engaged in unpaid domestic activities, like caring for children and family, cooking and cleaning, and maintaining the home and material items like clothing. These chores evolved into agricultural tasks as settlers claimed land. Women may have supported communities informally or formally by teaching children or tending to the sick. Outside of the home, a small number of women in towns had paid work as teachers, seamstresses, laundresses, innkeepers, or domestic servants.²³

Agricultural and timber production dominated Oregon's economy after the settlement era. These industries remained male-dominated through the twentieth century. Other states with leading industries, like textiles, employed more women in paid labor than Oregon.²⁴ Women in farming families labored in fields, managed livestock, and preserved food, but these efforts were considered a duty rather than employment.²⁵ By the 1850s, few women in Oregon had entered the paid workforce, despite an existing demand for labor. According to the 1850 federal census, women comprised 38 percent of the state population, or about 5,000 people. The populations were concentrated in Washington and Marion counties, and 98 percent of the total population was white.²⁶ Women of color counted in the census included 20 Black women, 2 Hawaiian women, and 118 Indigenous women, although this data may be incomplete or undercounted. Some women worked as teachers and in domestic roles; however, the demand for domestic labor exceeded the population of women who worked as domestic laborers. The dearth of women in the state led men, particularly those on the margins, to undertake labor traditionally considered women's work.²⁷

In 1880, about 80 percent of recorded men in Oregon, or 64,564 men, and 5.6 percent of women, or 2,776 women, were engaged in paid occupations. Working men were employed with about 40 percent in agriculture and about 30 percent in manufacturing, mechanical, and mining industries, including timber. Only 86 individual women were employed (for pay) in agriculture, 17 of whom were agricultural laborers. Most women working for pay, 70 percent, were in professional and personal services, and about 23 percent worked as tailors,

²² Oregon Office of the Secretary of State, *The Evolution of Women's Rights in Oregon*.

²³ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 19–20.

²⁴ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 16.

²⁵ Gail Wells, "The Oregon Coast—'Forists and Green Verdant Launs,' Farming and Fishing," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2014.

²⁶ Jackie Gonzales and Morgan Young, *First Year in Oregon, 1840–1869: A Narrative History*, National Park Service (2021), 120.

²⁷ Gonzales and Young, *First Year in Oregon, 1840–1869: A Narrative History*, 121, 137.

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dressmakers and milliners. Equal numbers of men and women, about 850 each, worked as domestic servants.²⁸ The majority of recorded Oregonians (at the time, over 98 percent) were white.²⁹

During the following decade, employment increased significantly alongside the population. In 1890, 115,988 of Oregon's 183,185 men worked, primarily in agriculture, and 10,793 women, of 134,519 or 8 percent, worked, with high concentrations of teachers, servants, and dressmakers, milliners, and seamstresses. At the state-level detail of occupations by gender in the federal census for that decade, races were recorded as "Native White" persons (with "Native Parents" or "Foreign Parents"), "Foreign White", and "Total Colored" (to include "Persons of negro descent, Chinese, Japanese, and civilized Indians"). Two hundred and four women categorized as "Colored" were documented as working in 1890, primarily as servants.³⁰ A 1891 article in *The Dalles Weekly Chronicle* titled "Men Who Do Women's Work" listed employment typically associated with women that was undertaken by Chinese men, incarcerated men, and others. This work included laundry, domestic service, sewing, nursing, housecleaning, and keeping a boardinghouse.³¹

At the beginning of the twentieth century, women in Oregon's predominantly rural economy increasingly entered the workforce, still largely in domestic roles, due to population growth. In 1900, Oregon had a population of 413,536, and 13.3 percent of the 138,762 women over age 10 worked. Overall, in 1900, 40 percent of all working women in Oregon were employed in domestic or service positions, including as domestic servants, keepers at boardinghouses, bar/restaurant keepers, laundresses, and hairdressers. About 8.5 percent of working women were engaged in agriculture, which occupied about 38 percent of men as farmers, planters, and laborers. Some major Oregon industries, like stock raising and lumber, were not options for women. There was just one woman working as a lumberwoman in 1900 compared to over 1,700 men, and 48 female stock raisers among over 3,000 men. It is possible that these women were in support positions in these industries. The manufacturing industry hired about 20 percent of working women for mills, food processing facilities, and seamstress work, and around 20 percent of men worked as carpenters, fishermen, and miners.³² Women were a significant portion of the state's teachers: 2,528 women held the role, as opposed to about 900 men. However, women held fewer advanced degrees and professional positions with only seven lawyers, seven professors, one civil engineer, and one mining engineer. Around 1910, a proportionately smaller number of women in Oregon worked than the national average: approximately 20 percent of women across the United States were engaged in paid labor in 1907, and only 14 percent of women in Oregon. Most working women across the United States were single—84.7 percent in 1900 and 72.1 percent in 1920.³³

In 1900, about 98 percent of Oregon's 180,551 recorded women (included those under 10) were white; however, increasing populations of Native, African American, Japanese and Chinese women entered the workforce, despite access to a narrower range and number of opportunities. The 1900 federal census records 428 "Negro" women, 2,563 "Indian" women, 365 "Chinese" women, 96 "Japanese" women and none in the "All Other" category. "Native white" women (including "Native parentage," "Foreign parentage," and "Mixed

²⁸ The total numbers in the 1880 federal census broken down by men and women in different occupations do not identify race. Each sector breaks is tallied separately and total numbers of men and women by "Nativity" are included. The categories for nativities are: United States, Ireland, Germany, Great Britain, Sweden and Norway, British America and "Other Countries." U.S. Department of the Interior, Census Office, *Population of the United States* (Census.gov, 1880).

²⁹ U.S. Department of the Interior, Census Office, *Statistics of the Population of the United States* (Government Printing Office, 1881).

³⁰ U.S. Department of the Interior, *Report on the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890, Vol. 1, Part 2, Section 4*.

³¹ *Dalles Weekly Chronicle*, "Men Who Do Women's Work," February 27, 1891, 4.

³² Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 13–20.

³³ U.S. Department of the Interior, Census Office, *Census Reports, Volume II: Population, Part I* (Government Printing Office, 1901).

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parentage”) comprise 157,123 women and 19,976 “Foreign-born white” women are counted. At the state-level detail of occupations by gender in the federal census for that decade, 159 “Negro” women are recorded as working, with 98 working as servants and waitresses. Two hundred and forty-seven working women of “Chinese, Japanese and Indian” descent, categorized as “Colored,” are recorded with most working in domestic and personal services and some in agricultural pursuits.³⁴ Although women of color and other underrepresented groups worked at a higher rate than white women, they were limited to domestic and service work. In 1910, 45 percent of the 521 working Black women in Oregon worked, mostly in domestic occupations. The percentage of Black women who worked remained around 40 percent through the mid-twentieth century. Oregon’s population of Chinese and Japanese women increased from 461 in 1900 to around 2,000 in 1920, amidst a total population increase from 180,551 women in Oregon in 1900 to 367,055 women in 1920.³⁵ Japanese and Chinese women engaged in paid domestic work, agricultural harvesting, industrial cannery work, and restaurant cooking. Native women who lived on reservations adapted to the restrictive conditions of their lives and engaged in seasonal agricultural work.³⁶

Oregon’s overall population grew significantly between 1900 and 1920, and the number of women more than doubled from around 180,000 to over 300,000. About eighteen percent of women worked in 1920. Women were still primarily engaged in industrial labor or domestic positions; however, the distribution of women’s work dramatically shifted by 1920, with a growing number of women hired in service and clerical industries, especially retail, as many Oregonians moved from rural to urban settings. Domestic labor decreased to about 27 percent of working women and included 1,500 “untrained” nurses. Clerical work rose to employ 20 percent of working women, with most employed as stenographers and typists followed by bookkeepers, cashiers and clerks. About 6.5 percent of working women were salespersons. Involvement in agriculture decreased overall; dairy farming employed the largest number of both men and women at the turn of the century. The 1920 census records “Native White” persons (with “Native Parents” or “Foreign Parents”), “Foreign-born White,” “Negro,” and “Indians, Chinese, Japanese and All Other.” The majority of the 317 Black women working in 1920 were servants. Of the 326 working women categorized as “Indians, Chinese, Japanese and All Other,” 81 worked in agriculture, 14 as saleswomen, and 168 in various domestic and personal service occupations.³⁷

About 80 percent of men in Oregon worked, increasingly in manufacturing, and men of color and underrepresented groups had limited job opportunities. The timber industry, which produced paper and lumber, was an important employer for men. The state’s population was overwhelmingly white, but men of color and men of underrepresented groups began to enter the workforce in larger numbers. Opportunities based on race, ethnic group, immigration status, and class typically limited these populations to specific industries. Japanese men primarily worked in agriculture and fishing; Black men generally worked in railroads, industrial occupations, and as domestic servants; and Native American men were typically engaged in seasonal labor.³⁸ Between 1910 and 1925, Mexican laborers were often engaged on railroads and in agriculture, such as on sugar beet farms.³⁹ People of color and underrepresented groups in Oregon had limited opportunities, many of

³⁴ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 18, 20. U.S. Department of the Interior, *Census Reports, Volume II: Population, Part I*.

³⁵ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 21; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920, Vol. 4* (Government Printing Office, 1923).

³⁶ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 21–22.

³⁷ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 19–20; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920, Vol. 4* (Government Printing Office, 1923).

³⁸ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 19–20.

³⁹ Elaine Rector, *Looking Back in Order to Move Forward*, 2010.

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which were in unskilled or labor-intensive occupations, due to system racism, barriers to education, and discriminatory hiring practices.

By 1920, women dominated the nursing and teaching industries in Oregon, as well as the switchboards. Over 96 percent of nurses were female in 1920 across the United States. In 1927, there were 6,640 women and 1,300 men working at Oregon public schools, although leadership positions were still predominantly male. Colleges and training programs were established to train more women to enter educational and healthcare positions. In 1920, about 95 percent of telephone operators in Oregon were women.⁴⁰ Even as new industries opened up, women were generally restricted to lower-level and support positions, and they had limited access to educational opportunities to become doctors, lawyers, architects, and other professional positions still associated with men.

As men left their jobs to serve in World War I, demand for wood, wheat, blankets, and clothing increased dramatically. Both men and women were recruited in semi-professional and professional wartime occupations, including as social workers, secretaries, accountants, bookkeepers, social workers, cooks, and stenographers. Prevailing protectionism laws limited women's abilities to fill wartime jobs outside of offices.⁴¹

The Great Depression shifted occupations and women were only hired when essential. In 1930, about 21 percent of women were engaged in paid labor, and their roles were concentrated in the clothing and food industries. About 600 women worked in woolen mills and 500 in textile mills, 20 percent of working women were employed in wholesale and retail trades, and 30 percent of working women were employed in domestic roles. About 5 percent of working women, 4,165 women, worked with telephone and telegraph services.⁴² The population of Asian Americans also shifted during this period. In 1930, 550 Chinese women lived in Oregon; this number grew by 127 in the following decade. During this same period, the population of Japanese women decreased from over 2,000 in 1930 to 1,800 in 1940. Most of Oregon's Asian Americans lived in Multnomah County, where they were engaged in commercial work, and in Clatsop County. In 1930, 88.3 percent of working Black women in Portland were employed in domestic service.⁴³ Black-owned businesses suffered during the economic downturn, and Mexican immigration and workers decreased during the Great Depression.

The number of women in the workforce increased steadily in the years before World War II. Oregon's female population was over 500,000 in 1940, a 70 percent increase in 20 years.⁴⁴ In 1940, about 23 percent of women worked, nearly 40 percent of whom were married, increasing from 27.9 percent in 1920.⁴⁵ Women continued to work in predominantly female industries, like clerical work, telephone and telegraph operations, retail, teaching, nursing, textile manufacturing, laundry, and processing of harvested produce and fish. About a quarter of women workers were in clerical jobs, 16 percent of working women were in domestic positions, and 16 percent of working women were in healthcare. The percentage of working women employed in agriculture continued to decrease as populations shifted from rural communities to urban cities, and in 1940 was only about 1 percent.⁴⁶

⁴⁰ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 33–36.

⁴¹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 30–31.

⁴² Rector, *Looking Back in Order to Move Forward*.

⁴³ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: Characteristics of the Population, Vol. 2* (Government Printing Office, 1940).

⁴⁴ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Sixteenth Census, Vol. 2*.

⁴⁵ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 45, 65–66.

⁴⁶ The 1940 and 1950 federal census categorize people as "White," "Negro," and "Other Races" (to include "Negro, American Indian, Japanese, Chinese, Filipinos, Koreans, and Asiatic Indians." State census data by gender and occupation has the categories of "White" and "Nonwhite." U.S. Department of Commerce, *Sixteenth Census, Vol. 2*.

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Women's employment significantly increased during World War II to meet wartime demands and fill roles vacated by servicemen. Almost the entire "Help Wanted" page in the September 23, 1943, issue of *The Oregonian* advertised positions seeking women ranged from knitting mills, spinning and weaving work, mail openers, file and sales clerks, stock keepers, stenographers, salesmen, laundry workers and more (**Figure 1**). Some businesses specified "NOT A WAR-TIME JOB: REAL OPPORTUNITY" because most jobs were only to be temporarily filled.⁴⁷ This period created some permanent but mostly temporary work opportunities for women in roles that were previously available only to men, including in manufacturing plants and shipyards.⁴⁸

At the end of the war, women's employment briefly decreased but rebounded to wartime record numbers in 1950. Working women continued to dominate clerical and educational positions; however, limited educational opportunities and wage inequity still prevented entry into new industries.⁴⁹ Most men continued to work, and their engagement in industrial occupations peaked after the war. Agricultural occupations decreased in number, and government-related work became a larger segment of the workforce, about 12 percent of working men. The opportunities for women of color and women of underrepresented groups remained limited. Among these populations, statewide trends included: Black men shifting away from domestic work and into manufacturing jobs and public service, Latino men working in agriculture and food processing, and Asian American men continuing to work in fishing and beginning to own small businesses.⁵⁰

In 1950, almost 34 percent of women over 14 in Oregon were engaged in paid labor, compared to 79.3 percent of men. Oregon's population had shifted from rural to urban areas, and more women worked in cities than in rural areas; 33.9 percent of working women were in cities, while 20 percent of working women were in rural areas. Cities with the highest percentages of working women were Astoria, Coos Bay, Newport, Portland, and The Dalles. Through 1950, most of Oregon's population was white. The 1950 and 1960 federal census categorize people as "white" and "nonwhite" at the occupation by gender level. Of working women, 2,575 (of 7,814 "nonwhite" women over 14) were categorized as nonwhite. Fewer than 800 Black women lived in the state in 1940; however, the Great Migration from the South increased the population to over 5,500 in 1950.⁵¹ Most Black working women remained in domestic occupations, and most nonwhite women were in urban areas.

The number of working women increased to over 30 percent for the first time in 1960 and continued to grow in the following decades. In 1960, 212,204 white women of 634,732 total women over age 14, and 4,163 "nonwhite" women, of 11,266 "nonwhite" women over age 14, were engaged in paid labor. Nearly all working women of color were employed in domestic and clerical positions, reflecting ongoing inequity in employment access. On the whole, more than 30 percent of working women held clerical positions, as secretaries, stenographers, and typists. About 17 percent remained in domestic occupations, about 6 percent were teachers, and 14 percent worked in healthcare. In 1968, at least one woman in Oregon worked in each of the 479 jobs listed in the 1960 census; however, many fields still had small numbers of women, and there were wage inequities for equal work. About 60 percent of working women were married. Furthermore, from the end of World War II through the 1960s, women shifted away from professional and technical professions they had gained during the war and into service and clerical work.⁵²

The number of women engaged in paid labor continued to steadily increase through the end of the century. Over 40 percent of Oregon's women worked in 1970. Of these, about 3,996 were Black, 3,966 were Spanish

⁴⁷ *The Oregonian*, "[Help Wanted-Women]," September 23, 1943, 20, Advertisements.

⁴⁸ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 15.

⁴⁹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 15.

⁵⁰ Christine Carmicheal et al., *The Hidden Faces of Oregon's Workers, circa 1900–1940*, 2005.

⁵¹ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Sixteenth Census, Vol. 2*.

⁵² Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 66–67, 87.

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speakers, and 1,506 were Native Americans. Black women continued to primarily live in urban areas; only 87 Black women worked in rural areas, and Native American women increasingly worked in urban areas.⁵³ Over 50 percent of Oregon women worked by 1980. In 1980, 80 percent of clerical work was performed by women nationwide (**Figure 2**).⁵⁴ That year, there were over 500,000 working women living in Oregon, about one-fifth of the state's total population of 2,633,156.⁵⁵ Part-time work for women also increased during the late twentieth century. Over 600,000 women over 16, or 56 percent of Oregon women, worked in 1990. Almost half of working women were in administrative and sales roles. A growing number were in managerial and professional roles, 27.8 percent, including healthcare, education, management, and engineering. Women continued to work in service occupations, about 18.8 percent. Higher percentages of women of color and women of underrepresented groups worked in service occupations than white women.⁵⁶

Throughout the twentieth century, the workforce in Oregon underwent profound changes, with women increasingly entering and shaping a diverse range of industries. From early roles in domestic service and industrial labor to a growing presence in clerical, educational, healthcare, and managerial positions, women's employment patterns mirrored broader shifts from rural to urban living. Despite persistent barriers such as wage inequity and limited access to certain professions, the proportion of working women steadily rose, and married women became a significant part of the labor force. Women of color and women from underrepresented groups contributed substantially, often in service and labor-intensive jobs, although opportunities remained constrained by social and economic factors. By the end of the century, women's participation in the workforce had become both widespread and varied, reflecting ongoing social transformation and the cumulative impact of changing economic demands.

Overview of Historic Contexts

This MPD includes five historic contexts, divided thematically. They are Agriculture, Commerce and Professional Services, Education, Healthcare, and Industry/Processing/Extraction. Each theme is arranged in chronological order and begins at the point when paid work in that field or theme was first available to women in Oregon. All contexts conclude by 1990, when Barbara Roberts was elected as Oregon's first female governor, representing a woman's election to the highest office in the state.

- **Agriculture** begins with early opportunity for land and business ownership for women and continues through intentionally organized back-to-the-land communities in the 1960s and 1970s.
- **Commerce and Professional Services** begins with early opportunities for married women to own businesses in the 1870s and extends through a rise in woman-owned businesses during the 1980s.
- **Education** begins with the opening of normal schools to train teachers during the late nineteenth century and ends in the 1960s when bargaining laws gave teachers access to more positions.
- **Healthcare** runs from the late nineteenth century when apprenticed women nursed sick and pregnant family and community members through the 1980s when women, especially women of color, continued to face barriers in access to advanced medical training.

⁵³ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 83–84.

⁵⁴ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 96.

⁵⁵ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "General Social and Economic Characteristics: Oregon," in *1980 Census of Population* (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1983).

⁵⁶ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Census 1990: Social and Economic Characteristics, Oregon* (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1993).

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- **Industry/Processing/Extraction** begins with large-scale canneries and mills of the late nineteenth century and encompasses a postwar regression of women's industrial roles and eventual demise of certain industrial operations, like fish canneries, in Oregon by the 1980s.

To illustrate the varied types of resources that may be associated with these themes, property examples are supplied throughout the contexts. These properties were identified through a survey and compiled list of properties associated with women's paid labor (see **Section H**); however, inclusion does not constitute a recommendation of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places under this MPD (see **Section F**). These properties are representative rather than comprehensive. Their addresses, when identified through research, or their historical name, when addresses were not identified by research, are in bold text for easy identification.

Definitions and Data

Oregon women have always engaged in paid and/or unpaid labor. For the purposes of this MPD, paid labor includes compensated roles in the agricultural, domestic, commercial, professional services, education, healthcare, and industrial and processing sectors. Participants included Native women, Black and African American women, Latina and Hispanic women, Asian women, mixed race women, other women of color, white women, and immigrant women from China, Japan, Mexico, and other countries. Historical records may include unidentified or misidentified backgrounds of individuals.

The data that informed this MPD, especially census data, is inconsistent. Classifications for common occupations, like nursing and teaching, shifted through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The census data also fails to capture employment in between federal census data collection periods, and in some cases, there are discrepancies between the number of women recorded in census recaps versus the original summary documents. Recordation of gainful occupation also changed from starting at age 10 to age 14 in 1940, and later to age 16; statistics indicated in the contexts attempt to include only working women, but they may include women from the age of 10 and up prior to child labor laws. Furthermore, seasonal workers, Native women, women of color, and women of underrepresented groups are likely undercounted or misrepresented in the data; where possible, footnotes or explanations indicate the races and ethnicities explicitly recorded in the census data. Women who were integral to businesses and occupations attributed to their male family members and husbands, as evidenced by women taking over businesses upon their husbands' deaths, are also likely undercounted in the data. Despite these qualifications, the available data does identify broad trends and major areas where women worked, which is valuable for contextualizing paid work; research into individual properties may yield new insights and supplement the existing data.

Some sectors of paid labor excluded from this MPD include elected governmental positions, women's clubs and organizations, creative arts, and sex work (see Section H for methodology). Context and registration requirements for these sectors could be added in a future amendment to this MPD.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT I: AGRICULTURE

Agriculture was the dominant industry in Oregon until World War II. This included large-scale farming of fruit, grain, and other specialty crops, like nuts, in the Willamette Valley, and dairying and smaller agricultural pursuits on farms and ranches across the state. Men dominated this industry; however, women engaged in paid labor as seasonal workers and in support positions for agricultural operations. Oregon women had early property and business ownership rights and, in rare cases, would own and/or operate farms and other agribusinesses, such as nurseries. Women of color and women of underrepresented groups, especially Asian Americans and Native Americans, engaged in seasonal harvest due to limited work opportunities elsewhere. Women were recruited to support agriculture during World War II to meet demand and fill vacancies; however, opportunities for women's employment in this industry largely disappeared afterward. Mexican and Mexican Americans became the most prevalent agricultural laborers starting in the midcentury. Agricultural advocacy and intentional communities moving back to the land in the 1960s and 1970s shifted attitudes towards land use.⁵⁷

Oregon's Nineteenth Century Agricultural Economy

Inhabitants and stewards of the land since time immemorial, Indigenous people began laboring for Euroamerican farmers starting in the early nineteenth century. Around the 1830s, French Canadians farming the Willamette Valley employed Native people, such as the Kalapooians, for seasonal work. In some cases, entire families moved and set up small informal communities. Each member, including children, often participated. Native migrant laborers worked seasonally until about the 1950s, when reservations in western Oregon were terminated and many Native people moved to urban areas for work.⁵⁸

After the Civil War and through the end of the century, white settlers established farms in Marion and Washington counties and ranches in the open range of Eastern and Central Oregon for cattle and sheep.⁵⁹ At the turn of the century, Oregon's mostly rural population worked on small farms or larger-scale hops and fruit operations, primarily in the Willamette Valley. In 1900, about 10 percent of Oregon women worked, and 136 of them were recorded as employed in the agricultural economy.⁶⁰ On large farms and fruit orchards, women participated in agricultural labor, often in seasonal roles picking cash crops. Most commonly, women in agriculture were unpaid workers on family farms and ranches.

The 1850 Donation Land Claim Act and 1878 Married Women's Property Act allowed Oregon women to own farms in the nineteenth century, through inheritance from their husbands or in their own right. The widowed Mary Maupin purchased a farm in Douglas County (**1769 Maupin Road** in Oakland) in 1868, becoming the sole proprietor of the operation, raising cattle and wheat to support her family.⁶¹ The property has remained in the family and retains a prune drying warehouse, barn, and a dwelling (**Figure 3**).

⁵⁷ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*.

⁵⁸ David Lewis (Takelma, Chinook, Molalla, Santiam Kalapuya), "Native American Agricultural Labor in the Willamette Valley," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, The Oregon Historical Society, 2025. https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/native_american_agricultural_labor_in_the_willamette_valley Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 60.

⁵⁹ Melinda Jette, "Central Oregon Range Wars," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2004.

⁶⁰ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 20–21; Kathy Tucker, "Women Packing Cherries, Hood River," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2002; U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, "Special Report: Occupations at the Twelfth Census," in *Twelfth Census of the United States: 1900* (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1904).

⁶¹ Drew Winkelmaier, "The Mary A. Maupin Sesquicentennial Farm: 150 Years in the Making." *The News-Review*, Updated September 29, 2025. https://www.nrtoday.com/news/history/the-martha-a-maupin-sesquicentennial-farm-150-years-in-the-making/article_f873a06c-6184-11ef-8eef-3fc853fc9e49.html

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Although many women worked on family farms in unpaid roles, communities recognized their contributions to the farm. The Patrons of Husbandry, a fraternal organization supporting farmers that was also known as the Grange, established chapters in Oregon by the 1870s, forming cooperative networks among farm families. Because the Grange recognized women's contribution to farmsteads, the organization allowed them to hold office and vote. The Grange also eventually advocated for women's suffrage broadly. As early as 1878, the California State Grange supported women's suffrage and began lobbying for its fulfillment. It took more than 30 years, but like many other organizations, the Oregon State Grange officially took up the suffragist cause in 1912.⁶²

Men were heavily engaged in agricultural pursuits at the turn of the century. In 1900, woodchopping, stock raising, and lumber, which employed 948, over 3,000, and 1,731 men, respectively, were major industries in Oregon. Only a handful of women were engaged in these jobs.⁶³ Men also worked as fishermen and oystermen (processing of timber, fish, and oysters are discussed in **Context V**). In 1920, over 38,000 men worked as farmers on generalized farms, as well as 1,162 women. The same year, 3,556 men and 95 women were employed as stock herders, drovers, or feeders.⁶⁴

Seasonal Labor Supports New Crops

New crops found success in Oregon, especially in the Willamette Valley, around the turn of the century, and 8 percent of working women engaged in agriculture. Nuts, prunes, and hops could be grown and dehydrated through new drying technologies. Canning technologies also advanced, significantly increasing the demand for fruit, vegetables and fish that could be eaten well after harvest when processed.⁶⁵ In 1913, four shipping agencies in the Hood River Valley consolidated to create the Apple Growers Association of Hood River, which processed apples, cherries, strawberries, and pears under the "Diamond" brand.⁶⁶

Specialty fruit and produce growing was introduced. On the coast near Sandlake in Tillamook County, Charles D. McFarlin brought cranberry farming from Massachusetts to the Oregon Coast and could harvest 1,000 bushels per acre during the late nineteenth century. Both women and children supported the harvest.⁶⁷ In 1920, only two men were listed as working in cranberry bogs.⁶⁸ Farmers grew a variety of crops, including wheat, oats, and potatoes, and some began dairying to produce milk, cream, and cheese.⁶⁹

From 1905 to 1915, Oregon was the country's largest producer of hops, which are crucial ingredients for making beer. The first hops were grown on small-scale farms, but commercial endeavors soon emerged in Marion and Polk counties. Even small farms hired Native American men, women and families; Asian American immigrants; and single and married white men, women and their families for harvest in August and September. Fourteen thousand acres of the two counties yielded hops in 1910.⁷⁰ Hop farms may have a domestic zone with a single-family dwelling for the property owner and associated domestic resources, like sheds and a well. Hop houses for drying harvests (**Figure 4**), storage buildings, irrigation facilities, and sometimes weighing

⁶² Heidi Ramp, "The Grange and Women's Suffrage," Century of Action Oregon Women Vote 1912-2012 Legacy Site, <https://centuryofaction.org/the-grange-and-woman-suffrage/>

⁶³ U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor, "Special Report: Occupations at the Twelfth Census".

⁶⁴ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920, Vol. 4*.

⁶⁵ Richard H. Engemen, "Wooden Beams and Railroad Ties: The History of Oregon's Built Environment, Industry and Agriculture in the Railroad Era," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2005.

⁶⁶ *Produce News*, "With Rich History Propelling It Forward, Diamond Fruit Growers Hits 100 in 2013," January 16, 2013.

⁶⁷ Cain Allen, "Picking Cranberries at Sandlake," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2006.

⁶⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920, Vol. 4*.

⁶⁹ Lou-Ann Speulda-Drews, *Oregon's Agricultural Development: A Historic Context, 1811–1940*, Prepared for Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. State Library of Oregon (1989).

⁷⁰ Kathy Tucker, "Eva Redding and Family," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2002.

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sheds would be on the property.⁷¹ Seasonal workers lived in temporary picker camps with small wood cabins (**Figure 5**) or tents. Cultivated fields would be in proximity to the picker camp. Krebs Ranch was the largest hop farm in the state when it was acquired by two English merchants, Wigans and Richardson, who renamed it a combination of their names, Wigrich Ranch (**5835 Wigrich Road** in Independence; **Figure 6**). The property had drying kilns and storage sheds. Men, women, and children worked as seasonal workers.⁷² The property stopped hop production in the 1950s. The industry as a whole diminished due to World War I and Prohibition; however, it was reenergized after Prohibition and remains active today.⁷³

Around the turn of the century and after, Native people were restricted from leaving reservations but sought work elsewhere to gain income, including in the wheatfields of eastern Oregon, the hopyards and berry fields of the Willamette Valley, and the orchards of the Yakima and Hood River valleys.⁷⁴ Native participation in the seasonal harvest paralleled the pre-settlement seasonal practices, in which families moved annually among resource areas to gather and store foods and other materials. After the establishment of the Coast Reservation in 1855, families affiliated with the Grand Ronde and Siletz agencies continued agricultural work on reservations, but, finding it insufficient for year-round support, often left during the summer to harvest crops like hops and berries. Families of men, women, and children from the coast would travel to hop fields near Independence, Wheatland Ferry, Keizer, and Portland, joined by Native workers from places including Klamath and Warm Springs. Temporary picker camps, segregated by race, with basic amenities and organized community activities, housed the workers. Following the termination of western Oregon reservations in 1956, Native participation in seasonal harvesting declined as many families relocated to urban areas for job opportunities, and a hop blight further reduced opportunities, prompting a shift toward bean and berry picking; nevertheless, Native migrant farm workers continued seasonal labor in the Willamette Valley through the 1970s.⁷⁵

Oregon's increasing Chinese and Japanese population faced barriers to work outside of domestic and agricultural jobs. In 1900, there were 365 Chinese women and 96 Japanese women residing in Oregon, and as their populations increased through the twentieth century, both groups engaged in seasonal farming.⁷⁶ Japanese American women, in particular, were employed in Hood River Valley orchards.⁷⁷ In 1905, 600 Japanese American men and women lived and worked in Hood River. Some were able to transition into farm owners. In 1920, Japanese farmers produced the most strawberries in the region.⁷⁸ Shizue Iwatsuki ran her 20-acre family orchard in Hood River after her husband was injured in World War II. When Iwatsuki first arrived at the orchard in 1916, she and her husband lived in a small hut with no electricity or plumbing, and they struggled to make a living growing apples and strawberries. Iwatsuki went on to be a community activist and teacher. She earned a certificate in flower arranging from the Saga School in Kyoto and started the Hood River Saga School, teaching classes on flower arranging and tea ceremony.⁷⁹

⁷¹ Speulda-Drews, *Oregon's Agricultural Development: A Historic Context, 1811–1940*.

⁷² Orbis Cascades Alliance, "Wigrich Rancho Photographic Album, circa 1915," Oregon State University Special Collections and Archives Research Center via Archives West, 2026, Finding Aid.

⁷³ Peter A. Kopp, "Hop Industry," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

⁷⁴ William G. Robbins, "This Land, Oregon: New Assaults on Indian Land," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2014.

⁷⁵ David Lewis (Takelma, Chinook, Molalla, Santiam Kalapuya), "Native American Agricultural Labor in the Willamette Valley," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, The Oregon Historical Society, 2025.

⁷⁶ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 21.

⁷⁷ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 47.

⁷⁸ Kathy Tucker, "Crating Apples in Hood River," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2002.

⁷⁹ Linda Tamura, "Shizue Iwatsuki (1897–1984)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2025.

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Agricultural Education

Before World War I, women could access formal agricultural education at Oregon Agricultural College (now Oregon State University), studying agronomy and home economics. After its founding in 1868, Oregon Agricultural College (previously Corvallis College) admitted both women and men, and agricultural degrees were open to both; however, women more often pursued Home Economics due to social pressure and prevailing attitudes that women belonged in the domestic sphere.⁸⁰ After the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917 funded vocational education, Oregon high schools taught agricultural science to boys and home economics—focused on food preservation, dairy, and poultry—to girls, mainly covering unpaid farm work.⁸¹ The number of women working in paid agricultural positions decreased after hitting about 8 percent in 1900.⁸² Protectionist laws prevented women from diversifying in agriculture during World War I, despite a labor shortage, and after.

Agricultural labor remained important for working-class women, women of color, and women of underrepresented groups after World War I. Between 1920 and 1930 in the Hood River Valley, about one-third of working Japanese American women worked in agriculture. About one-quarter of Japanese American women worked, about 10 percent more than white women. Native people came to harvest in the Hood River Valley and near Eugene, Wheatland Ferry, and Portland. Native seasonal workers from the Klamath and Warm Springs reservations harvested Willamette Valley farms in the summers.⁸³

Women Step into Wartime Agriculture Production

Oregon's agricultural economy changed during the Great Depression and again during World War II. Oregon's population began shifting from rural to urban areas in the 1930s, and the economy attracted migrant workers from other states to undertake seasonal labor. New Deal labor laws, like the Wagner Act of 1935, prevented agricultural and domestic workers from unionizing, leading to substandard living conditions.⁸⁴ Handpicked fruits and vegetables were important crops and required high levels of labor.⁸⁵ Of the 81,321 women working in Oregon in 1930 (21.4 percent of the population), less than 4 percent, or 3,196, were engaged in agriculture, according to the federal census.⁸⁶

Women stepped in temporarily to support wartime production demands. During World War II, work in Oregon transferred to women as men enlisted in the services. Produce at farms and orchards across the state was at risk of loss due to the vacuum in farm labor.⁸⁷ Oregon State College Extension Services established the Emergency Farm Labor Service in 1943 to address these shortages by recruiting women, children, and older community members to work agricultural properties. Mabel Mark led the Women's Land Army (WLA), a branch of the U.S. Crops Corps, to recruit women across the state to work as seasonal farmers. Almost 15,000 women in Oregon enlisted in the WLA, with 135,000 placements recorded.⁸⁸ Schools, including the Portland

⁸⁰ Oregon State University Libraries, Special Collections and Archives Research Center, Women's Words, Women's Work: Spaces of Community, Change, Tradition, Resistance at Oregon State University, 2026; Larry Landis, "Oregon State University," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2023.

⁸¹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 47–48.

⁸² U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Vol. 3, Part 4* (Government Printing Office, 1943).

⁸³ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 59–60.

⁸⁴ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 60–61.

⁸⁵ William G. Robbins, "This Land, Oregon: Technology and Labor," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2014.

⁸⁶ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Vol. 4* (Government Printing Office, 1933).

⁸⁷ A. E. Platt, "Women Cherry Pickers During World War II," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2016.

⁸⁸ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 60–61.

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Public Schools, also organized groups of students to work in the fields during the summer. The work of women and students was essential for Oregon's agricultural property owners to meet mandated state and federal wartime quotas.⁸⁹

The makeup of agricultural workers who were people of color or of underrepresented groups shifted during the war. Notably, during World War II, all Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants in Oregon were forced into internment camps and temporarily ceased working in agriculture.⁹⁰ The United States began to encourage seasonal laborers from Mexico through the Mexican Farm Labor Program to fill this vacancy. Initially, mostly Mexican men worked on the cultivation and harvesting of sugar beets, as well as the harvesting of products like asparagus, peas, apples, and pears. Despite Mexican government requirements for wages and housing standards, a lack of oversight resulted in poor conditions, especially in camps. The program persisted through the mid-1960s, with families, including women and children, joining (**Figure 7**).⁹¹

The Emergency Farm Labor Service continued until 1947, drawing workers of all types across the state. A total of 900,000 workers were assigned to farms across the state, including nine farm labor camps. They received training and assignments. Native Americans, African Americans, white workers, soldiers, women and children, and migrant workers worked in this effort. After the war until 1947, over 1,000 displaced Japanese Americans participated.⁹² Some Japanese Americans continued to work in Eastern Oregon after the program ended. Umatilla Tribe members were recruited in Umatilla County. After the war, women's formal participation in the workforce dropped, and only about 20 percent of rural women worked.⁹³

New Labor and Shifting Attitudes Towards Agriculture

During the second half of the twentieth century, women continued to work in agriculture, and their ownership presence expanded. In 1950, the 6 percent of Oregon's female labor force engaged in agriculture, forestry, and fishing was concentrated in Clackamas, Curry, Lane, Marion, Multnomah, Washington and Yamhill counties. Agriculture continued to be an important source of employment for women with no or limited education through the 1960s. Migrant laborers from California and Texas, as well as Mexican workers, both undocumented and through the Mexican Farm Labor Program, were the dominant paid workforce. Women continued their traditional, unpaid work on family farms.⁹⁴ Female farmers in the Willamette Valley founded Oregon Women for Agriculture to advocate for agricultural issues, namely regulatory problems in the grass and seed industry. It remains a forum for women's leadership in Oregon farming.⁹⁵ Some women began to own and operate agricultural businesses.

The Oregon Historical Society founded the Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program in 1958 to recognize family farms and ranches in operation for over a century. The properties, once ubiquitous across a historically rural state, were now being commemorated. Over 350 farms in 15 counties were recognized in the inaugural year. The following year, 20 of the 44 awardees were women-owned farms.⁹⁶

⁸⁹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 65; Platt, "Women Cherry Pickers During World War II".

⁹⁰ Tucker, "Crating Apples in Hood River".

⁹¹ Kathy Tucker, "Mexican Laborers Pick Potatoes, 1943," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2002.

⁹² Garry Stephenson, *Fighters on the Farm Front: Oregon's Emergency Farm Labor Service, 1943–1947*, 2010.

⁹³ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 65.

⁹⁴ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 74–76.

⁹⁵ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 95.

⁹⁶ Larry Landis, "Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2026.

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During the 1960s and after, less than 2 percent of Oregon women worked in agriculture, and women began to engage in agricultural pursuits in different ways.⁹⁷ Lesbian women started the back-to-the-land movement. They established intentional communities in rural settings, especially in Southern Oregon. Communities like the Oregon Women's Land Trust of the 1970s established small communities focused on sustainable living and women's empowerment on the land.⁹⁸ Rootworks (**2000 King Mountain Trail** in Wolf Creek) is a self-sustaining back-to-the-land community with cabins and a barn, intended to create a vibrant community space for artists and writers to live, collaborate and work.⁹⁹ Some women, like Grace Dinsdale, opened agriculture-related businesses. Grace opened Blooming Nursery (**3839 SW Golf Course Road** in Cornelius) in the early 1980s on a farm that her parents had purchased in 1953. Her wholesale nursery business grew to over 200,000 square feet of greenhouse and storage space.¹⁰⁰

Conclusion

The agricultural context of women's labor in Oregon reveals a dynamic history shaped by shifts in industry, technology, and demographic diversity. While men have historically dominated this sector, women's paid work was integral to the state's agricultural economy, from seasonal labor and agricultural work during World War II to property ownership and participation in cooperative organizations like the Women's Land Army. The evolution of agricultural practices, the introduction of new crops, and the influence of immigrant and minority groups underscore the complexity and resilience of women's roles. As Oregon transitioned through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, women's involvement adapted to changing opportunities and challenges, laying the groundwork for broader participation in other industries and ongoing advocacy for equal recognition and rights.

Agricultural properties associated with this context, including farms, orchards, ranches, and related operations such as temporary picker camps, are typically located in rural areas throughout Oregon. Large-scale farms and orchards are most commonly concentrated in the Willamette Valley, though such properties may occur elsewhere in the state, while ranching and hay production have historically been centered in Central and Eastern Oregon. Woman-owned farms and nurseries are documented across Oregon. Agricultural properties reflect a wide range of construction dates and generally retain rural settings. The built environment of a farmstead, a common agricultural property type, often includes a primary domestic zone containing a dwelling and related features associated with daily life and subsistence activities, along with an adjacent agricultural zone, comprising barns, garages, storage buildings, and other facilities supporting production. Pastures, meadows, vineyards, orchards, and cultivated fields are typically located beyond these core zones. Large-scale agricultural operations may display similar organizational patterns, characterized by more extensive agricultural zones and landscape features. Other agriculture-related businesses, such as nurseries and greenhouses, may include specialized production facilities and office buildings. Ranching and dairying properties associated with livestock production may contain both domestic and agricultural zones, including barns and pastures with animal shelters, though some properties consist solely of agricultural resources without a residential component. Temporary picker communities are associated with seasonal labor and may be found in harvest areas, especially in the Willamette Valley.

⁹⁷ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population: 1960, Vol. 1, Part 39* (U.S. Government Printing Office, 1961).

⁹⁸ Oregon Women's Land Trust. "Herstory." <https://www.oregonwomenslandtrust.org/herstory>

⁹⁹ Historic Artists' Homes & Studios, Rootworks, 2026.

¹⁰⁰ Jim LeMonds, "A Perennial Powerhouse," *Digger*, Volume (December, 2008).

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HISTORIC CONTEXT II: COMMERCE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

From the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century, women in Oregon worked in commerce and professional services informally and formally, as business owners, professionals, members of the service industry, and laborers.¹⁰¹ During the nineteenth century, women participated in businesses shaped by the state's major industries—agriculture and lumber—and supported communities in developing towns through domestic work, clerical, and semi-professional services. The 1878 Married Women's Property Act allowed women to open businesses independent of their husbands and to own property.¹⁰² Examples of enterprising business-owning women exist throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As Oregon's population shifted from rural farms to urban centers around the 1920s, women increasingly worked in clerical positions. Entry into professional occupations requiring advanced education was slow, especially for women of color and women of underrepresented groups, but groundbreaking women paved the way in these new fields, organizing professional groups and advocating for equality.

Domestic and Supporting Roles During the Nineteenth Century

During the nineteenth century, Oregon women worked in unpaid and paid domestic roles. Women maintained their own households and raised children, and some also worked outside their own homes. In 1870, 149 women worked in professional services and 416 worked in domestic and personal services, constituting about 10 percent of the number of men in those occupations.¹⁰³ Over the next 20 years, the population grew, and over 1,900, or 5.5 percent of working women in Oregon, were in professional services, and 4,695, or 13.5 percent of working women in Oregon, were in domestic and personal services, as compared to 5,607 men in professional services and 21,847 in domestic and personal services. Women in professional services at the end of the nineteenth century worked in clerical, sales, and domestic positions, including 879 housekeepers and stewardesses, 256 clerks and copyists, 155 stenographers and typewriters, 118 saleswomen, 103 bookkeepers, 72 telegraph and telephone operators, 70 merchants, and 66 hotel keepers.¹⁰⁴ Women also managed or owned businesses or worked in supporting roles in Oregon's major industries, such as timber and mining, which exclusively hired men.

After the Civil War, the mining industry established communities across Oregon. Opportunities for Mexican and Black men were available, and Chinese immigrants were a significant part of the workforce. Although a primarily male industry, women successfully established businesses essential to mining towns, including boarding houses, hotels, and domestic services like laundry, mending, and cooking. Some of these businesses were established jointly or alongside their husbands, the specific arrangement of which varied. Women also operated and worked in brothels.¹⁰⁵

Most working women at the turn of the century were single or widowed and worked in the domestic sphere as household servants, hairdressers, barkeepers, servants, laundresses, and boardinghouse keepers. Over 34 percent of Oregon's 40,472 working women worked in domestic occupations in 1910. A larger percentage of Black women worked than white women, and they were primarily employed in domestic occupations.¹⁰⁶ Even as women entered into skilled labor occupations, they stemmed from the notion "of women as nurturers and

¹⁰¹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 18–19.

¹⁰² "The Evolution of Women's Rights in Oregon," On Her Own Wings: Oregon Women and the Struggle for Suffrage.

¹⁰³ U.S. Department of the Interior, Census Office, *Report on the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890, Vol. 1, Part 2, Section 4* (Government Printing Office, 1896).

¹⁰⁴ U.S. Department of the Interior, *Report on the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890, Vol. 1, Part 2, Section 4*.

¹⁰⁵ Gonzales and Young, *First Year in Oregon, 1840–1869: A Narrative History*, 208.

¹⁰⁶ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*.

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caretakers,” employing women to undertake the informal, unpaid household labor expected of women, like cooking or food processing, textile and garment production, teaching, nursing, laundering, and housekeeping.¹⁰⁷ Higher education and vocational training available to women at the time focused on home economics.

Few women entered semi- or professional jobs. In 1900, about 2,500 women worked in trade and transportation, mostly as stenographers. About 3,400 women worked in professional services, but over 2,500 of these were teachers. Of the remainder, there were 8 lawyers (to 1,000 practicing men), 1 civil engineer, and 1 structural engineer.¹⁰⁸

Women-Owned Businesses

Some women, empowered by laws like the Oregon Married Women's Property Act of 1878, which allowed married women to own property and operate businesses independent of their husbands, capitalized on domestic occupations and operated boarding houses and rented apartments in cities and towns. Mary H. Carr was an early Black businesswoman. She opened her first boardinghouse in the 1860s in Portland (**First and Pine streets** in Portland). She was the only nonwhite boarding house owner listed in the 1872 city directory.¹⁰⁹ In 1913, more than 50 percent of Portland boarding houses had female keepers.¹¹⁰ Some boarding houses were only a few rooms. Mrs. Myer ran a rooming house out of the second floor of a two-part commercial block in Bend during the 1910s.¹¹¹ In grander endeavors, entrepreneur Mrs. J. T. McCready was the planner behind the American Inn at Guild's Lake in Portland for the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition.¹¹² It was a modern inn that could accommodate 1,150 guests.¹¹³

Thousands of working women were employed or operating boarding and lodging houses. In 1910, about 1,500 of working women in Oregon were boarding and lodging house keepers, and another 288 were hotel keepers and managers. The following decade's census records 1,131 women working as boarding and lodging housekeepers and 247 as hotel keepers and managers.¹¹⁴ The decrease may have been due to women moving into semi-professional positions, like clerical work.

In Portland, sisters May and Ann Shogren opened a dressmaking business called M. & A. Shogren, Importers, Dressmakers and Ladies Tailors in 1889. The Shogren's father was a patternmaker, and May Shogren studied under Henry B. Litt. The sisters operated the business in several locations across the city, with a long period starting in 1905 at a Victorian dwelling at **121 SW 10th Avenue**. As a high-end “modiste,” May traveled to Paris and New York several times a year to purchase fabrics and accessories and was known for her exquisite designs. Ann was the business manager. The business employed between 50 and 100 seamstresses, likely mostly women. In 1906, brother Fred Shogren built a two-and-one-half-story, wood shingle-clad Arts and Crafts house with seven bedrooms (**400 NE 62nd Street** in Portland). The dwelling featured diamond-paned

¹⁰⁷ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 32; U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor, “Special Report: Occupations at the Twelfth Census”.

¹⁰⁸ U.S. Department of the Interior, Census Office, *Bulletin 8: Negroes in the United States* (Government Printing Office, 1904).

¹⁰⁹ Jean M. Ward, “Mary H. Carr (1823?–1911),” in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2025.

¹¹⁰ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 38.

¹¹¹ Sanborn Map Company, Bend, Deschutes County, Oregon (Library of Congress), 1917, Fire Insurance Map; *Bend Bulletin*, “[Mrs. E. Gladstone Has Opened Her Dressmaking Parlors],” October 6, 1917, 3, University of Oregon Libraries: Historic Oregon Newspapers.{The Bend Bulletin, 1920 #1904746}

¹¹² The American Inn and Guild's Lake are no longer extant but were approximately near NW 35th Avenue and U.S. Route 30.

¹¹³ The first names for Mrs. Meyer and McCready were not indicated in the sources referenced. *Sunday Oregonian*, “A Woman's Enterprise,” June 11, 1905, 10.

¹¹⁴ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920*, Vol. 4.

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windows and a two-story apsidal turret with a conical roof. The sisters and their widowed father moved into the dwelling in 1912. They operated the business until 1918.¹¹⁵

Some entrepreneurial women ran establishments for eating and drinking, including restaurants and breweries. Fredericka Wetterer ran the Eagle Brewery in Jacksonville (**355 S Oregon Street** in Jacksonville) after her husband died in the late 1870s. The wood-frame brewery building was converted into a dwelling after the business closed. Theresa O'Brien owned the Pacific Brewing Company with two men during the late 1880s in Astoria.¹¹⁶ Marie Kienlen took over Grant's Pass Brewery (**505 SW G Street** in Grant's Pass; **Figure 8**) in 1904 after her husband died. The couple had purchased the brewery in 1899 and rebuilt it that year due to a fire. They added a saloon to the new building. The Kienlens lived down the street in a commercial building (**201 SW 5th Street** in Grant's Pass).¹¹⁷ Kienlen operated the business until Prohibition in 1908.¹¹⁸

Other women developed a variety of skills to pursue new fields that were typically associated with men. In Gresham, Agatha Hart designed and built a dwelling for her family (**456 SE Roberts** in Gresham) in 1904 and went on to build other dwellings in Gresham and Newport. She also did landscape design, plumbing, electrical work, and made tapestries.¹¹⁹ In Portland, Edith Gowanlock was the vice president of Portland Iron Works (**1335 NW Northrup Street** in Portland, also addressed as **1225 NW 13th Avenue**) from 1912 to 1928, making her the only woman to hold an executive position in any of the major local foundries.¹²⁰

During the late nineteenth century, more Black Oregonians moved to urban areas, especially Portland. Men commonly worked on railroads and women worked in related or domestic industries. When the 1880s railroad connected to Portland, businesses to support travelers and the railroad emerged. Black people occupied service roles, including staffing restaurants and entertainment venues. Soon, Black business owners—including women—began opening clubs, restaurants and other small businesses first in Northwest Portland and then on Williams Avenue, Vancouver Avenue, and the Broadway corridor in Portland.¹²¹

The Rise of Switchboards, Retail, and Clerical Work

Technological changes like the spread of telephones created entire occupations that largely employed women.¹²² Phone lines were first connected to Portland in the late 1870s. During the following decade, Astoria, Pendleton, Salem and Union connected as well. Early rural exchanges were rare. Switchboards were almost exclusively operated by women who connected lines, answered questions, and handled emergencies. Experienced women sometimes managed groups of newer operators at the largest facilities. Women worked long hours for low wages. In 1919, there was a telephone operators strike across the United States, including in Albany, Medford, and Pendleton, to protest low wages. By the late 1920s, women held roughly 95 percent of the operator positions for Oregon telephone exchanges. Nationally, the proportion of women in clerical work

¹¹⁵ As the 62nd Street dwelling was the only extant location associated with their productive lives at the time of nomination, the dwelling is listed in the NRHP under Criterion B for the property that best represents their productive lives. Julie Biorstad, "Shogren, Fred A., May and Ann, House, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon," Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (1989), National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

¹¹⁶ BrewLab, Oregon's First Women Brewers [1879–1908], 2015.

¹¹⁷ Sanborn Map Company, Grants Pass, Josephine County, Oregon (Library of Congress), 1907, Fire Insurance Map.

¹¹⁸ BrewLab, Oregon's First Women Brewers [1879–1908].

¹¹⁹ Personal communication. Email from Silvie Andrews, Museum Director, Gresham Historical Society to Izabella Nuckels, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. August 6, 2025.

¹²⁰ K. Zisman, et al., "Gowanlock, Elizabeth B., House, Portland, Multnomah County," Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (1989), National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

¹²¹ Millner, "Black People in Oregon."

¹²² Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 20.

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more than doubled from 1910 to 1920, a trend reflected in women workers at Oregon's banks, insurance firms, and government offices.¹²³

Women's employment increased after World War I, with occupations tending towards skilled clerical and professional jobs. Concurrently, an increasing number of Oregonians were moving from rural to urban settings.¹²⁴ Across the United States in 1910, 7.3 percent of working women were employed in clerical work, but Oregon recorded 12 percent of working women in clerical work, although this may be overcounted due to inconsistent classification. Women in clerical roles, like bookkeeping and stenography, typically supported senior-level men and or an experienced woman. Telephone operators and women in sales roles may have had more independence to make decisions and work with the public.¹²⁵ By 1920, 18.4 percent of Oregon's female population was recorded as employed in the federal census. These included not just single young women, but also a growing share of married women who supplemented their husband's income.¹²⁶ Teaching and nursing remained common careers for educated women, and offices hired increasing numbers of female stenographers and clerks. In 1920, 19.7 percent of working women, or 10,746, worked in clerical occupations, including 3,439 bookkeepers and 2,564 clerks.¹²⁷

Some women entered professional or semi-professional jobs with available education. They may have obtained a high school degree, completed a training program or some college work, or attained a college degree. These led to positions as teachers, nurses, telephone operators, clerical workers like secretaries, and women in sales (women in education and healthcare sectors are discussed in **Contexts III** and **IV**, respectively). Education shifted from religious and community groups to public systems. High schools in large cities had commercial classes, including stenography and bookkeeping. The Vocational Act of 1917 promoted skills-based learning in agriculture and industry through public schools. By 1935, nearly 4,000 women attended evening and part-time vocational classes, including home economics. Over 3,000 girls enrolled in home economics classes in their high schools. Vocational schools and colleges also provided commercial courses. Uniquely, Oregon also offered training programs in salesmanship for people who did not attend college. During the 1937 to 1938 school year, more than 50% of the 1,012 enrolled students in evening classes statewide were women.¹²⁸ As vocational education became more accessible, women were increasingly able to access more semi-professional roles.

Department stores rose in prominence at the beginning of the century and provided new opportunities for women as salespeople. Middle- and upper-class women increasingly shopped at these businesses for ready-to-wear clothing and other goods. These stores were often on main thoroughfares in communities. In 1920, over 33 percent of all salespeople in Oregon were women, including at department stores and smaller retailers.¹²⁹ Female clerks and salespeople became the faces of retail space.¹³⁰

Impactful Professional Women

The 1920 census was the first to record workers in government. Over 4,000 men worked in public service across Oregon, but only 300 women.¹³¹ The first woman in the country hired under civil service rules was Lola

¹²³ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 36–38.

¹²⁴ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 48.

¹²⁵ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 35–37.

¹²⁶ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 19–20.

¹²⁷ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920*, Vol. 4.

¹²⁸ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 33–48.

¹²⁹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 38.

¹³⁰ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 55–58.

¹³¹ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Population, Volume III: Composition and General Characteristics of the Population by States* (Government Printing Office, 1922).

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Greene Baldwin. In 1908, Greene Baldwin was sworn in as a full-time law enforcement officer in the City of Portland. She had previously worked as a teacher and then a clerk while also taking on unpaid roles in advocating for women and children. A volunteer role as a probation officer for girls under the Juvenile Court in Portland led to her position. Until the early 1920s, she was a supervisor for the Portland Police Department's Women's Protective Division. She advocated for the Hillcrest Oregon Industrial School for Girls (**2420 Strong Road SE** in Salem) and helped to get federal funding for the Cedars Venereal Detention Facility for Women, where women diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections were incarcerated during and after the First World War.¹³²

Women in Oregon also continued to own and operate businesses and professional practices. In 1929, Blanche Virgin became the owner and operator of KMED radio upon the death of her husband, Bill, the previous owner. The station was in the 1911 two-story symmetrical brick American Renaissance style Sparta building, prominently sited in downtown Medford with a curved entrance flanked by ionic columns and designed by local architect Frank Clark (**12 North Riverside** in Medford). The station was an early innovator and leader in commercial radio in the state.¹³³

After the Depression, women sought work as secretaries, salesclerks, nurses, seamstresses, and domestics. These women faced stark wage disparities and scant chance for advancement compared to their male peers. A 1938 federal review found that women in Oregon who managed to keep professional jobs, like civil service or teaching positions, still often earned 40 percent less than men in similar roles. Entry into professional careers requiring advanced university education and professional registration was limited through the mid-twentieth century. In 1930, Oregon had 2 female architects, 14 female dentists, 27 female lawyers and judges, and fewer than 100 physicians and surgeons. The number of women in these professions decreased in 1940, except for architecture, which rose to 6 women.¹³⁴

Women who broke into professions left lasting legacies and paved the way for future women in the field. In 1924, Dorothy McCullough Lee moved to Portland and began practicing law. She started the first all-women law firm. In her career, she served in the Oregon House of Representatives and Senate for over 14 years, as the only woman in office in Oregon at the time.¹³⁵ Shortly after, in 1926, Mary J. Spurlin of Multnomah County was appointed the first judge in the state.¹³⁶ Margaret Goodin Fritsch became the first licensed female architect in Oregon in 1926. She undertook many residential projects in Oregon and was secretary of the Oregon State Board of Architect Examiners from 1926 through 1956. She designed an addition to the Tri-Delta Sorority house at the University of Oregon (**1987 University Street** in Eugene) in the 1920s. In the late 1930s, she designed the Cameo Theater (**304 E 1st Street** in Newberg).¹³⁷ Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver founded the first landscape architecture firm run by women in the region. They worked out of a home office in Salem (**545 Mission Street** in Salem) and designed over 250 gardens in Portland, Salem, Seattle, Tacoma, and other places in the region. Both women studied at the Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture, Gardening, and Horticulture for Women in Groton, Massachusetts. Schryver worked under Ellen Biddle Shipman in New York

¹³² Gloria F. Myers, "Lola Greene Baldwin (1860–1957)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022. Men with diagnosed sexually transmitted infections were not detainee (Nikki Koehlert, "Adventures in Research: Oregon's Social Hygiene Crusades," *Oregon Historical Society Blog*, April 9, 2024, <https://www.ohs.org/blog/oregons-social-hygiene-crusades.cfm>).

¹³³ George Kramer, "Sparta Building, Medford, Jackson County, Oregon," Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (1992), National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

¹³⁴ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 52.

¹³⁵ Meryl Lipman, "Dorothy McCullough Lee (1901–1981)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2026; Oregon State Bar, Diversity and Inclusion in the Oregon Legal Profession, ca. 2020.

¹³⁶ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 53.

¹³⁷ Morgen Young, "Mary Margaret Goodin Fritsch (1899–1993)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

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City after graduation.¹³⁸ Ebba Wicks Brown received her architecture license in Oregon in 1942. She worked with her father, architect John Wicks, in an Astoria-based practice, Wicks & Wicks. The practice evolved to include Wicks Brown's husband, Ernest Brown, and the team designed modern buildings, including in the International style, and produced a robust body of work through the end of the century, including the 1967 Astoria Public Library (**450 10th Street** in Astoria), the 1968 Illahee Apartments (**1015-1049 Franklin Ave** in Astoria) and the 1971 US Bank (**987 Duane Street** in Astoria; **Figure 9**).

Professional occupations were largely inaccessible to women of color and women of underrepresented groups until after World War II. In 1954, Chinese American Edith Yang became the first minority woman licensed as an architect in Oregon. Inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright, she designed a one-story Contemporary style dwelling (**1020 NW 30th Street** in Corvallis; **Figure 10**) for her family and to house her architecture studio. Yang practiced for nearly 50 years from her home-based studio, making a significant impact on residential and commercial architecture in Corvallis, as well as on buildings on the Oregon State University campus. She earned certifications as a state plan examiner and structural inspector. She persevered in the male-dominated field of architecture and commanded the male-dominated construction sites; her career and work inspired other women, especially Asian American women, to pursue architecture.¹³⁹ Mercedes Deiz became the first Black woman admitted to the Oregon Bar in 1960. She graduated fourth in her class from Lewis & Clark Law School in 1955 and was the only woman in her class. In 1972, she also became the first woman of color elected as a judge in Oregon.¹⁴⁰

Women formed professional organizations, separate from exclusionary men's groups. A group of women started the Portland Women's Realty Board, and after 10 years, they constructed and opened a demonstration house at **2805 SE Knapp Street** in 1931. The one-and-one-half-story Tudor Revival House has a complex roof and is clad in brick veneer and cedar shingles. It was intended to promote good construction techniques, encourage home ownership, and display what could be built for \$12,000. Designed by architect E.T. Page and built by Alex M. Shand, it is one of several model homes built in the NRHP-listed Eastmoreland Historic District and is the most significant for showcasing the initiative and organization of this professional group of women.¹⁴¹ Concurrently, a group of attorneys organized the Women Lawyers Association of Oregon to support one another.¹⁴²

Other women worked in writing and academic professions. About 33.2 percent of writers, editors, and reporters were women in 1930, and about 25 percent of college professors and lecturers were women in 1930 and 1940.¹⁴³ Beatrice Morrow Cannady, an early twentieth century civil rights leader, was the editor of Oregon's largest African American newspaper, the *Advocate* (published out of a dwelling at **2516 NE 25th Avenue** in Portland). She became owner and editor of the paper after she divorced her husband, the paper's founder and first editor. Morrow Cannady went on to graduate from the Northwestern College of Law in Portland. She was one of two women in her class and the first African American woman to graduate.¹⁴⁴ Women became more

¹³⁸ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 53; Lord & Schryver Conservancy, Gaiety Hollow, 2026; Ruth Roberts, "Lord & Schryver Landscape Architects," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

¹³⁹ Althea Wunderler-Selby, "Edith Yang House, Corvallis, Benton County [DRAFT]," Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (2026), National Register of Historic Places Registration Draft Form.

¹⁴⁰ Destiny Johnson, "Mercedes Deiz Was Oregon's First Woman of Color to Serve as a Judge," *KGW8*, March 22, 2022.

¹⁴¹ Kirk Ranzetta et al., "Eastmoreland Historic District, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon," Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (2022), National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

¹⁴² Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 56.

¹⁴³ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 54.

¹⁴⁴ Quintard Taylor, "Beatrice Morrow Cannady (1889–1974)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

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prevalent and prominent in professions requiring advanced degrees, and in 1972, Title IX of the Educational Act prohibited colleges and universities from excluding women from any degrees or other programs.¹⁴⁵

Working-Class Women in Commerce

Working-class women continued to work in domestic occupations during the early twentieth century. Nearly 2,000 women waitressed in 1920, increasing to 3,635 in 1930 and 4,723 in 1940. Although waitresses worked in communities across the state, more than half of them were concentrated in Portland, the state's largest city. Like teaching, nursing, and clerical work, waitressing became increasingly dominated by women (teaching and nursing are discussed in **Contexts III** and **IV**, respectively). Three-quarters of waitstaff were female in 1920, and this increased to 86 percent in the next two decades. During the 1940s and 1950s, waitresses unionized to advocate for their rights.¹⁴⁶

Entrepreneurial women opened and operated restaurants and bakeries, which were often staffed by women, and other service-based businesses. Helen Bernhard opened a bakery business in 1924, supplying goods to the local community. This also helped to supplement her family's income. She operated it out of the family dwelling, and additions were appended as it expanded (**1725 NE Broadway** in Portland). In 1939, a dedicated bakery building was constructed next door to the west (**1717 NE Broadway** in Portland; **Figure 11**). It was operated by the Bernhard family through the late 1980s and subsequently sold to Richard and Mary Laufer. The business continues in their family.¹⁴⁷ In 1919, Maren Gribskov and Eleanor Bechen, graduates of the Oregon Agricultural College, opened a restaurant called O.I.C. Cafeteria (several locations, including **856 Wall Street** in Bend). The business, which was primarily staffed by women, served timber workers. A new restaurant opened for the growing business in 1936, called the Pine Tavern (**967 NW Brooks Street** in Bend; **Figure 12**), and was operated by Gribskov and Bechen through 1967.¹⁴⁸

Beauty salons were one of the professions and business opportunities available to Black women, and they became community gathering places. Hair styling and cosmetic services had relatively low upfront costs and could be offered from a dwelling. In Portland, Inez Duke is thought to be the first Black certified beautician in the city. She ran a beauty business from her house (**1736 N Vancouver Avenue** in Portland) after graduating from Portland Sanitary Beauty Parlors in 1927. Other Black beauticians operated out of their homes in Portland during the 1920s and 1930s. A few beauty businesses were in commercial areas, like Madame M. Robinson, proprietor of a hair tonic, who ran her business from the second story of a commercial building (**NE Broadway and N Williams Avenue**).¹⁴⁹ The federal census records 244 women total working as barbers, hairdressers, and manicurists across Oregon in 1920, jumping to 1,168 in 1930, with 709 of those women residing in Portland.¹⁵⁰

Wartime Work

During and between the First and Second World Wars, the role of working women evolved considerably. Many more women formally entered the workforce to fill the gaps men left when they enlisted in the war effort.¹⁵¹ New Deal work relief programs, like the Works Progress Administration (WPA), had limited opportunities for

¹⁴⁵ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 72.

¹⁴⁶ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 56–57.

¹⁴⁷ Helen Bernhard Bakery, About Us, 2026.

¹⁴⁸ David Jasper, "Iconic Eatery serves Bend for 75 years," *Bend Bulletin*, September 20, 2011, E1.

¹⁴⁹ Caitlyn Ewers et al., "Dean's Beauty Salon and Barber Shop, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon," Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (2022), National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

¹⁵⁰ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920, Vol. 4*; U.S. Department of Commerce, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Vol. 4*.

¹⁵¹ Hancock, "Trudy Rice's Story: Nursing and Race in Oregon History".

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paid women's work. The WPA required workers to be the head of a household, limiting its availability to single, widowed or women with husbands who could not work.¹⁵² Only about 13.5 percent of women across the United States had WPA positions. Due to the prevalence of construction work in the WPA and the attitude that it was unsuitable work for women, early positions for women involved sewing, bookbinding, school lunch program work, and caring for the elderly.¹⁵³ In Portland, some women enrolled in a domestic service training program that supplied domestic workers for upper-class residents.¹⁵⁴ Later in the program, women eligible for the WPA worked in libraries, as artists, writers, actors, and musicians.¹⁵⁵ Painter and interior designer Margery Hoffman Smith directed the handmade interior furnishings at Timberline Lodge (**27500 E Timberline Road** in Government Camp), a WPA project, while she was the Federal Art Project's (a WPA program) assistant state director. Hoffman Smith engaged women as part of the Women's and Professional Project to make draperies, upholstery, and rugs for the building.¹⁵⁶

Between the wars, women returned to the domestic sphere and traditional jobs. However, advances in childcare, wages, and new careers opened more opportunities to working women. During this time, the number of female lawyers and realtors grew, and women in these jobs began to form their own professional groups since they were excluded from similar male-dominated organizations.¹⁵⁷ Few professional opportunities were available to Black women until the integration of education and workplaces began in the 1950s and 1960s. Some Black men and women endeavored to open small businesses, such as barbershops, salons, groceries, and newspapers; however, they rarely had the opportunity to enter the professional realm.¹⁵⁸

Postwar Opportunities and Small Businesses

In the postwar era, women continued to work in clerical and professional positions, and more women entered the workforce in increasingly varied professions. In 1950, 20.6 percent of working women, or 31,325, were in professional occupations, including medicine. Only 5 percent of working men, or 21,222, were in professional services. An additional 28.5 percent of working women, or over 43,000, were in wholesale and trade. Nearly double the number of men were in wholesale and trade. Minority groups and women with limited educational opportunities continued to be employed in agriculture, by canneries and other industrial operations (see **Contexts I** and **V**, respectively). Educated women had opportunities to enter professions, like nursing and teaching (see **Contexts III** and **IV**). Small numbers worked in newly accessible occupations, such as law.¹⁵⁹

After World War II, women more frequently ventured into business ownership. Some women entered careers that allowed them to open businesses at home, like artists or writers.¹⁶⁰ In the 1940s, Willie Mae Young Hart, her husband, and a business partner opened **Beacon Cab Company** with a few cars. It was the first Black-owned cab company in Portland.¹⁶¹ In 1952, Candy Renee, a popular burlesque dancer, became the owner of the Star Theater (13 NW 6th Avenue in Portland), which she ran for only two years. Officers from Portland's all-female Portland Women's Protective Unit were often deployed to investigate complaints at the venue, which

¹⁵² William G. Robbins, "This Land, Oregon: Hard Times," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2014.

¹⁵³ PBS, *Surviving the Dust Bowl: The Works Progress Administration*, 2026.

¹⁵⁴ Robbins, "This Land, Oregon: Hard Times".

¹⁵⁵ Amy Rudersdorf and Emily Gore, *America's Great Depression and Roosevelt's New Deal*, 2013.

¹⁵⁶ Sarah Munro, "Margery Hoffman Smith (1888–1981)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

¹⁵⁷ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 44–46, 51, 56.

¹⁵⁸ Hancock, "Trudy Rice's Story: Nursing and Race in Oregon History".

¹⁵⁹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 74–90.

¹⁶⁰ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 80.

¹⁶¹ Heather Burmeister, "Willie Mae Young Hart (1915–2017)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

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hosted some of the most popular burlesque shows in Portland.¹⁶² Mama's Home Fried Truck Stop (**1414 Alder Street** in Eugene; no longer extant) in Eugene opened in 1972 as a collective and operated with female employees through the decade. Most women-owned businesses were small; only about 700 had paid employees.¹⁶³ In 1972, there were 4,928 women-owned businesses in the state, many of which were retail or service-oriented; by 1977, this number had more than doubled to 10,205.¹⁶⁴

Of the nearly five thousand women-owned businesses operating in Oregon in 1972, only 103 were minority-owned. The Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen (**10607 SE Main Street** in Milwaukie; **Figure 13**) was the first Black-owned bakery in Milwaukie, co-owned by Dorothy and Hurtis Hadley. The one-part commercial block building was constructed ca. 1955 on a commercial row and housed other businesses prior to the bakery. Hurtis worked as a baker for Albertsons grocery stores, becoming the first Black man accepted into Oregon's baking apprenticeship in 1967 and becoming the state's first Black certified journeyman baker. He left Albertsons after nearly a decade when he learned he would not be considered for a bakery merchandise position because of his race. While Hurtis built his career as a baker, Dorothy attended the Hollywood College of Beauty in Portland and became a licensed cosmetologist. The Hadleys operated the Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen from 1977 to 1985.¹⁶⁵

Conclusion

The history of women in Oregon's commerce and professional services from the nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries reflects a persistent evolution of opportunity, resilience, and entrepreneurship. Despite barriers related to gender, race, and social expectations, Oregon women carved out essential roles in the economic and social fabric of their communities, whether as business owners, professionals, or workers in domestic and supporting industries. Their efforts not only advanced their own economic independence but also laid the groundwork for future generations of women to enter and thrive in a wider range of occupations. The legacy of these groundbreaking women is evident in the increasingly diverse and dynamic workforce that shapes Oregon's development today.

Oregon women working paid jobs in commerce and professional services were often endeavoring and trailblazing individuals. This context encompasses a range of individual occupations and businesses, with some women working in careers with established parameters, like switchboard operators, to others owning and navigating their own businesses. A myriad of properties across the state, in both urban and rural areas illustrate this range of occupations and businesses. Women worked in high-rise office buildings, from private offices in their personal dwellings, and in department stores. They also worked in restaurants, hotels, salons, radio stations, and government offices. They may have worked alone or been embedded in large firms or owned businesses that employed other women or women and men. Resources associated with this context will likely have been in continuous use since the period of significance. They will be in a range of styles, scales, and types.

¹⁶² Marlena Williams, "Star Theater," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2024.

¹⁶³ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 84–85.

¹⁶⁴ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 84–85.

¹⁶⁵ Stantec Consulting Services Inc., *Report for Reconnaissance and Intensive Level Surveys: Oregon Women's Labor History Project*, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (2025).

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HISTORIC CONTEXT III: EDUCATION

Women have dominated the formal education profession since Oregon's mid-nineteenth century settlement era. Enterprising women and religious orders established the first formal educational institutions, and teacher training schools, known as normal schools, followed. Although most teachers were women, however, most leadership and decision-making positions were filled by men through the mid-twentieth century. For most of the state's history, most women taught in grade school and faced significant barriers to entering higher education.

The Rise of Normal Schools

Teaching was one of the few formal occupations available to women during the nineteenth century. Between 1876 and 1877, Oregon schools employed 328 women and 437 men as teachers, but as public education expanded, women became the majority of teachers.¹⁶⁶ However, in Oregon's frontier days, formal education to help girls become teachers was limited. Schools were scarce and often run by missionaries or churches. Notably, the Portland Academy and Female Seminary, founded in 1854, offered an advanced curriculum for young women of elite families. More than 30 parochial schools had opened across the state by the 1880s. Coeducational religious institutions included the Oregon Institute, now Willamette University, established in 1842, and Pacific University, established in 1849. Opportunities expanded in the 1870s and 1880s as more public high schools were established, allowing more women access to secondary education.¹⁶⁷

In the 1880s, communities and reformers advocated for normal schools: institutions specifically to train educators. Monmouth's Oregon State Normal School, now Western Oregon University (**345 Monmouth Avenue N** in Monmouth), opened in 1882 and produced a steady supply of trained women teachers for Oregon's emerging school systems. By the end of the nineteenth century, normal schools opened in Monmouth and Ashland in 1882, Weston and Drain in 1885, and in Wasco in 1889. In 1929, Eastern Oregon State Normal School (now Eastern Oregon University) became the first normal school to open in Eastern Oregon. The first building (now Inlow Hall at **8th Street and K Avenue** in La Grande; **Figure 14**) was a Renaissance Revival–style three-story building designed by Portland-based architect John V. Bennes. The building housed all classrooms and other facilities for teaching training until an additional building was constructed in 1935.¹⁶⁸ Women subsequently dominated the teaching profession in perpetuity, especially in primary and secondary schools. Graduates went on to teach in communities across the state. Schools ranged from one- or two-room schools in rural areas, like the one-room wood-frame ca. 1900 Elwood School (Elwood School (**24480-24500 S Elwood Road** in Colton) to large, architect-designed buildings in towns.¹⁶⁹

In addition to teaching general curricula to school-age children, women also taught and established schools to train women and girls in vocational and professional skills. These persisted from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century and ranged from volunteer-run community organizations to formalized schools. In 1908, in Lake Oswego, the Order of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary opened the Christie School (**2507 Christie Drive** in Lake Oswego; **Figure 15**), an American Renaissance–style building designed by architect Alfred Breitung. The campus eventually had a laundry building, provincial building, administrative building, dormitory, chapel, library and other school buildings. The Catholic sisters also opened the Holy Names Normal School in Villa Marie four years later to house a two-year teaching training program. It was renamed Marylhurst Normal School and evolved into a college. In 1929, Marylhurst College became the first and only four-year

¹⁶⁶ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 33.

¹⁶⁷ William G. Robbins. "This Land, Oregon: A Framework for Learning." Oregon History Project. <https://www.oregonhistoryproject.org/narratives/this-land-oregon/education-arts-and-letters/a-framework-for-learning/>

¹⁶⁸ John W. Evans, "Administration Building, Eastern Oregon State College, La Grande, Union County," Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (1980), National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

¹⁶⁹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 33.

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college for women in the Pacific Northwest.¹⁷⁰ The Portland Section of the National Council of Jewish Women built the Portland Neighborhood House (**3030 SE Second Avenue** in Portland; no longer extant) in 1910 to teach newly arriving immigrants from Europe domestic skills needed for American work. Classes included sewing and cooking. A library, gym, and meeting spaces were included in the building.¹⁷¹

Public Education

At the turn of the century, public education began to standardize, and the number of teachers overall decreased. In 1900, 2,824 women worked as teachers in Oregon, as compared to 452 men. At the higher education level, only 8 women were professors, while 66 men held these positions.¹⁷² In 1901, the Oregon Legislature standardized high school education across the state, and three years later, the school year was set at a minimum of 4 months.¹⁷³ Despite the quantity of teachers, they still had to advocate for rights. Sylvia Thompson, the only female legislator in the Oregon House of Representatives for District 29 in 1917 and 1919, advocated for a school year that lasted eight months, wage minimums for teachers, and outlawing discrimination between male and female teachers.¹⁷⁴ In 1920, education shifted from being led by religious organizations and community groups to public education.¹⁷⁵ The number of women teachers also decreased to about 1,200, and about 600 men in 1920.¹⁷⁶ In Gresham, West Gresham Grade School (**330 Powell Boulevard** in Gresham) was constructed in 1923 as the community transitioned from decentralized one-room school buildings to a consolidated school district.¹⁷⁷ The shifts extended to high schools, vocational programs, and colleges. Concurrently, nursing education was transitioning from hospital-based training to nursing programs at colleges and universities.¹⁷⁸

Leadership and Activism

Women's clubs advocated for community improvements, including libraries. Groups of unpaid women organized, fundraised, and built these resources. Although these institutions were established through unpaid work, the staff whom they eventually employed were often women. In 1913, a Carnegie Library was constructed (**502 State Street** in Hood River) as a result of community advocacy, including that of the Hood River Women's Club, to house the Hood River County Library.¹⁷⁹ The Bonanza Women's Club advocated for its first library building (**31703 Highway 70** in Bonanza; **Figure 16**) in the 1930s. The 1934 Bonanza Women's Library had eight reading tables, three dozen chairs, and a growing number of books in circulation. The library served not just the Bonanza community but also children from the Langell, Poe, and Yonna valleys and from the Union School in Klamath Falls. The Bonanza Women's Club raised funds for several years to build the new permanent library. The Civil Works Administration, a New Deal-era employment program, also aided in the

¹⁷⁰ Koler Morrison, City of Lake Oswego Cultural Resources Inventory Field Form 1988–1989: Christie School, City of Lake Oswego, 1989, https://www.ci.oswego.or.us/sites/default/files/fileattachments/boc_hrab/webpage/18315/christieschool.pdf.

¹⁷¹ L. Rudolph Barton, "Neighborhood House, Portland, Multnomah County," Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (1979), National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

¹⁷² U.S. Department of the Interior, *Census Reports, Volume II: Population, Part I*.

¹⁷³ Rector, Looking Back in Order to Move Forward.

¹⁷⁴ Lane Sawyer, "Sylvia Williams Thompson (1873–1950)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2025.

¹⁷⁵ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 35.

¹⁷⁶ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920, Vol. 4*.

¹⁷⁷ City of Gresham, Gresham History, 2026.

¹⁷⁸ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 35.

¹⁷⁹ Hood River Library, Library History & Gardens, 2026.

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library's construction.¹⁸⁰ Women's work in libraries was in many ways an extension of work as educators and in line with gendered norms for occupations.

Increasing Leadership Opportunities

Despite the economic hard times of the Great Depression, women kept their teaching positions and held their limited leadership roles. In 1927, there were 6,640 female teachers and 1,300 male teachers, and in 1930, more than 83 percent of Oregon public school teachers were women.¹⁸¹ Many schoolmarms were unmarried young women—their teaching jobs were considered suitable until they married. The state's education leadership was mostly men but included a few notable women. Cornelia Marvin Pierce was appointed to the State Board of Higher Education in 1931, becoming the first woman to help govern Oregon colleges. In 1930, Oregon had 15 women among its 36 county superintendents and 13 women serving as principals in Portland's public schools. Women continued to dominate the teaching profession, especially in primary and secondary education, comprising more than 75 percent of the state's teaching staff in 1940. Despite increases in leadership, women were still a minority in higher education. In both 1930 and 1940, only about a quarter of college instructors and professors were women.¹⁸²

Post–World War II demands created opportunities for women in professional capacities and highlighted gender inequalities. A rise in labor feminism began to address workplace justice and gender equality. In 1946, teachers formed the Oregon Education Association, and women activists within the organization fought for better pay and tenure protections.¹⁸³ In 1948, Oregon amended its constitution to give every voter the right to participate in school elections.¹⁸⁴ By 1955, Oregon had raised the education requirement for teachers to a four-year college degree, professionalizing the field further. In 1965, Oregon passed one of the nation's first teacher collective bargaining laws, the "Teacher-Board Consultation Law," allowing teachers' unions to negotiate with school boards.¹⁸⁵

The equal and civil rights movement changed schooling and educational career opportunities for Black Oregonians. School desegregation occurred in the aftermath of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Black students in Portland were bused to integrate schools. This led to the underutilization of schools in neighborhoods historically associated with people of color. Busing in Portland persisted through 1980 when Ron Herndon and the Black United Front advocated for funding for Black schools and for allowing students to attend neighborhood institutions.¹⁸⁶ In 1964, Evelyn Crowell was hired by Linfield College (**900 SE Baker Street** in McMinnville) as one of the first Black librarians in Oregon. She also became the first Black faculty member at the college.¹⁸⁷ By 1990, 521 Black women in Oregon worked as teachers, librarians, and counselors combined.¹⁸⁸

At the end of the 1980s, teaching was a predominantly female workforce and predominantly white. In 1990, Oregon had 44,620 women working as teachers and about 20,000 men. Of the women teachers, 521 were

¹⁸⁰ Stantec Consulting Services Inc., *Report for Reconnaissance and Intensive Level Surveys: Oregon Women's Labor History Project*.

¹⁸¹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 33.

¹⁸² Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*.

¹⁸³ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 77–78.

¹⁸⁴ Rector, *Looking Back in Order to Move Forward*.

¹⁸⁵ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 77–78.

¹⁸⁶ Rector, *Looking Back in Order to Move Forward*.

¹⁸⁷ James Harrison, "Evelyn Crowell (1936–2017)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

¹⁸⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Census 1990: Social and Economic Characteristics, Oregon*.

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Black; 323 were American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut; 843 were Asian or Pacific Islander; and 274 were of other races.¹⁸⁹

Conclusion

From the late nineteenth through the twentieth century, women established and taught in schools focused on vocational, professional, and domestic skills, particularly for girls and immigrants. Despite early dominance in teaching, women had to advocate for equal rights, fair wages, and professional opportunities as public education became standardized. Over time, women assumed more leadership positions such as principals and superintendents, though the workforce remained predominantly white. Civil rights movements and legislative reforms gradually improved educational and career prospects for women and people of color, while collective bargaining and higher qualification standards further professionalized teaching in Oregon.

Women have played a vital role in education throughout Oregon's history. The majority of teachers and those working in related professions, like librarians, were historically and continue to be women. Schools will be found across the state in large and small, urban and rural communities. They will range from modest one-room, wood-frame schoolhouses to architect-designed, stylized multi-story buildings. Secondary schools and college and universities will likely have complexes of related buildings, some of which may be more directly representative of this context than others. Other related resources will include libraries, research facilities, and education-related buildings, like dormitories.

¹⁸⁹ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Census 1990: Social and Economic Characteristics, Oregon*.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT IV: HEALTHCARE

Women have long shaped Oregon's healthcare, in both formal and informal capacities. They first served as midwives and learned healing practices from family and community mentors. As Oregon communities organized and built medical facilities, mostly white women pursued nursing training and came to dominate the field through the twentieth century. Far fewer women earned medical degrees or entered specialized roles because medical schools restricted their access, training pathways remained limited, and professional networks often excluded them. These barriers slowed advancement throughout the century, especially for women of color and women from underrepresented groups, who faced additional racial discrimination and fewer opportunities for training and promotion.

Women Begin to Define Formalized Healthcare

Medical schools across the country began admitting small numbers of women during the nineteenth century; however, women in healthcare primarily worked as nurses and learned their field through apprenticeships. Prior to the 1870s, there was effectively no formal training of nurses in the United States. Nursing in hospitals was a lower-class occupation, sometimes using labor from penitentiaries. Upper-class women advocated for advancements in hospitals to increase hygiene.¹⁹⁰ In 1890, Oregon had 181 female nurses and midwives and 40 female physicians and surgeons. Over 700 men worked as physicians and surgeons. No men were listed as nurses and midwives.¹⁹¹ Nineteenth-century childbirth was attended by women who studied through apprenticeship and remained practiced exclusively by women through the twentieth century.¹⁹² Women of color and women of underrepresented groups likely worked in healthcare, formally or informally, for their communities. For example, in around 1895, a Black woman named Sybil Harber was a popular midwife in Lakeview, Oregon.¹⁹³ Nurses with early formal training were usually hired to work for private families.¹⁹⁴

As women transitioned from informal healthcare positions to the formal medical field, some filled physician positions without medical degrees and were essential in advocating for women's rights and health. Known as Portland's first woman physician, Dr. Mary Anna Cooke Thompson trained under two local doctors in Illinois and practiced medicine after moving to Oregon during the 1860s. She worked as a doctor and rented rooms to boarders during the 1870s and after to support her family after her husband fell ill. She was an outspoken supporter of human rights, including for women, workers, and the Black community.¹⁹⁵ Other nineteenth century women doctors, like Dr. Bethenia Owens-Adair, focused on women's and children's health.¹⁹⁶

After Oregon banned abortions in the mid-nineteenth century, both men and women physicians practiced outside of the law. Portland's first known abortionist, Dr. Albert Littlefield, opened a practice in the late

¹⁹⁰ John M. Tess, "Portland Sanitarium Nurses' Quarters, Portland, Multnomah County," Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (2017), National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

¹⁹¹ U.S. Department of the Interior, *Report on the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890, Vol. 1, Part 2, Section 4*.

¹⁹² OHSU Center for Women's Health. "A Brief History of Midwifery in America." <https://www.ohsu.edu/womens-health/brief-history-midwifery-america>

¹⁹³ Anonymous, Sybil Harber, ca. 1895, Identifier wsuvp0230, Oregon Historical Society, Washington State University Libraries Digital Collection, ca. 1895.

¹⁹⁴ Patricia Schechter, "The Labor of Caring: A History of the Oregon Nurses Association." *Oregon Historical Society*, vol. 108, no. 1. <https://www.ohs.org/oregon-historical-quarterly/back-issues/upload/Schechter-LaborCaringHistory-OHQ-Spring-2007.pdf>

¹⁹⁵ Jean M. Ward, "Mary Anna Cooke Thompson (1825–1919)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022; U.S. Department of the Interior, Census Office, *Report on Population of the United States, Part 1, Eleventh Census*, (Government Printing Office, 1895).

¹⁹⁶ Jean M. Ward, "Bethenia Owens-Adair (1840–1926)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2023.

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nineteenth century, running through the 1930s. Concurrently, Dr. Maude Van Alstyne and Dr. Ed Stewart performed abortions from the Broadway Building (**715 SW Morrison Street** in Portland; **Figure 17**). Dr. Littlefield trained Dr. Alys Griff, an early woman physician in Oregon, and Dr. George Watts. Dr. Ruth Barnett studied naturopathy at the Pacific States Chiropractic College and studied under Dr. Watts. She operated an abortion clinic in the Broadway Building and performed over 40,000 abortions starting in 1918. Most abortion providers were overlooked by law enforcement if no patients died. During World War II, nearly 50 women visited her clinic each day. Portland law enforcement began to raid abortion clinics in the postwar era. Dr. Barnett was arrested and jailed multiple times. She closed her clinic and continued working from her personal residence (**2871 Southwest Champlain Drive** in Portland).¹⁹⁷ As Dr. Barnett's experience illustrates, women-run clinics may occupy office space in a shared building or in a personal dwelling.

Women also endeavored to support underserved groups with healthcare. In 1907, a group of Portland women, including Caroline Ladd and Helen Ladd Corbett, established the Portland Free Dispensary after a report by Valentine Prichard, supervisor of kindergartens in Portland's public schools, documented substandard living conditions of the city's poor residents. The first dispensary was at **SW 4th Avenue and Jefferson Street**.¹⁹⁸ Women and men studying medicine at the University of Oregon Medical School (UOMS), nursing schools, and the Visiting Nurses Associations provided healthcare and prescriptions, often at no cost. Forty-one clinics were opened at the site. The dispensary was eventually taken over by UOMS and was housed in what is now Sam Jackson Hall (**3245 SW Pavilion Loop** in Portland).¹⁹⁹

Hospital-based Nurse Training

Religious organizations, particularly those led by women, opened many of the state's early hospitals, and the first nurses were trained in hospital settings. Catholic nuns of the Sisters of Providence opened Saint Vincent's Hospital in Portland in 1875, and Episcopalian deaconesses opened Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland in 1873. These institutions provided charity care and had training programs for nurses by the 1890s.²⁰⁰ Before then, there were only three trained nurses recorded in Portland. The largely female group of trainee nurses were more apprentices than students; they lived on site and worked in the wards in exchange for their instruction. At the Portland Sanitarium, founded by the Seventh-day Adventists, nurses lived in the hospital's attic at **SE Belmont Street and SE 60th Avenue** in 1907 as the training program developed. In addition to practical hospital training, five instructors and three doctors taught "domestic science, culinary, physical culture and nursing, bible, vocal music, rhetoric, and physics." After the nurses' quarters were condemned by the Portland Fire Bureau, a new dormitory building and hospital were constructed.²⁰¹

The Catholic Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia opened, operated, and trained women nurses at both St. Elizabeth Hospital in Baker City and St. Anthony Hospital in Pendleton. When it opened in 1915, St. Elizabeth's (**2365 Fourth Street** in Baker City), an excellent example of Jacobethan style architecture, was the largest and most state-of-the-art medical facility in the area. The Catholic Sisters also opened a 3-year nursing program that operated from 1911 to 1949, yielding 262 graduates before consolidating with the St. Anthony School of Nursing in Pendleton. Initially housed in a single centrally located three-story building, the hospital expanded

¹⁹⁷ Rickie Solinger, "Ruth Cohen Barnett (1892–1969)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022; Douglas Perry, "Ruth Barnett, Portland's Foremost Abortionist before Roe v. Wade, Endured Arrests, Lived High Life," *The Oregonian Online*, May 13, 2022.

¹⁹⁸ The dispensary is also described as located at Fourth and Burnside (no cardinal directions) in some sources, as well as at the old Boys Club. *The Oregon Journal*, "Med School Leader Dies," April 10, 1962, 4.

¹⁹⁹ Sara Piasecki, "Portland Free Dispensary," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, The Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

²⁰⁰ Patricia Schechter, "The Labor of Caring: A History of the Oregon Nurses Association." *Oregon Historical Society*. vol. 108, no. 1. <https://www.ohs.org/oregon-historical-quarterly/back-issues/upload/Schechter-LaborCaringHistory-OHQ-Spring-2007.pdf>

²⁰¹ Tess, "Portland Sanitarium Nurses' Quarters, Portland, Multnomah County".

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with a 1921 addition and a 1941 appended laundry section to accommodate increased usage and changing technologies. A separate building was constructed for the nursing school and convent during the 1940s. The hospital employed physicians and nurses, janitors, engineers, clerical staff, housekeepers, and cooks.²⁰²

Local government also formed institutions to support public health, often of poor residents, and primarily employed women as nurses. The Multnomah County Hospital started a nursing program in 1909 called the Multnomah School for Nurses. A Colonial Revival-style dormitory was built across the street in the 1910s, connected to the hospital via underground tunnel (**3037 SW 2nd Avenue** in Portland; **Figure 18**). A second nurses' quarters was built a few years later to meet the program needs.²⁰³

Early Twentieth Century Demand for Nurses

At the beginning of the twentieth century, few women worked in professional healthcare roles requiring advanced education, but the need for nurses grew. Nursing remained a predominantly female profession. In 1900, Oregon had 35 trained female nurses, 482 female nurses without specified training, and 29 female midwives. There were only 57 men in nursing and no male midwives. Women, however, were limited in advanced medical careers. Over 700 men were employed as surgeons and physicians in 1900, as opposed to 61 women.²⁰⁴ Men and women of color and of underrepresented groups had less access to jobs in healthcare. Dr. DeNorval Unthank, one of the first Black doctors in Oregon and the only Black doctor in Portland when his practice opened, did not receive his degree until 1926, and his education was from out-of-state schools.²⁰⁵ As late as the 1960s, few Black women worked in healthcare, even as nurses.²⁰⁶

As more women were trained in the medical field, they increasingly supported decision-making in healthcare. Women held key public health positions, such as Esther Pohl Lovejoy, the first woman to head a municipal health department in a major city in 1907. Dr. Marie Equi received her medical degree in 1903 from the University of Oregon, one of five women in her graduating class, and became a model for Progressive activism. She operated a general medical practice in Portland that focused on women and children (**Figure 19**).²⁰⁷ After the 1912 suffrage movement, women entered public office, influencing healthcare and education policies.

Reform followed growth. Superintendent nurses and doctors advocated for improvements to nurses' training to keep up with the advancing medical field.²⁰⁸ The Oregon Nurses Association (ONA) was founded around the turn of the century as a registered nurses' (RN) professional organization. In 1906, the group lobbied for a Nurse Practice Act to set standards for practice. It joined the national counterpart, the American Nurses Association (ANA), in 1911. Black women, who were not welcome in ANA, started the National Association of Colored Graduate Nurses (NACGN) in 1908.²⁰⁹

²⁰² Allen Mitchell, "St. Elizabeth Hospital (Old), Baker, Baker County," Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (1989), National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

²⁰³ Tess, "Portland Sanitarium Nurses' Quarters, Portland, Multnomah County".

²⁰⁴ U.S. Department of the Interior, *Census Reports, Volume II: Population, Part I*.

²⁰⁵ Oregon Historical Society, "Dr. DeNorval Unthank Biography," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2016.

²⁰⁶ Hancock, "Trudy Rice's Story: Nursing and Race in Oregon History".

²⁰⁷ Michael Helquist, "Marie Equi," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, The Oregon Historical Society, https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/equi_marie_1872_1952_/. Marie Equi is associated with many properties in Oregon. She acquired a dwelling at **1423 SW Hall Street** in Portland in 1924 and lived in it through the 1950s.

²⁰⁸ Tess, "Portland Sanitarium Nurses' Quarters, Portland, Multnomah County".

²⁰⁹ Patricia Schechter, "Oregon Nurses Association," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, The Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

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By 1910, nearly all of Oregon's trained nurses were women, and primarily white women. In 1911, Oregon passed the Nurse Practice Act, setting standards and licensing, and becoming an early adopter of nursing regulations.²¹⁰ Some nursing schools, grounded in hospital-based apprentice-like programs where graduates received diplomas from hospitals, could not justify the rising costs of training nurses to new standards, which focused on new technologies, theoretical education, and expanded knowledge of medicine, and so shuttered their training programs. This started a shift towards baccalaureate nursing programs at universities and colleges.²¹¹ Despite the demand for nurses, professional organizations and nurse training were largely inaccessible to women of color during the beginning of the twentieth century, and they occupied more poorly paid positions, like practical nurses and aides.²¹²

Wartime Nursing and Advocacy for Standardization

The First and Second World Wars and the 1918 influenza increased the demand for nurses. In 1920, Oregon had about 1,500 female nurses, identified as untrained in the census, 13 midwives, and 26 female surgeons and physicians (as opposed to over 700 men).²¹³ In 1930, there were 93 female physicians and surgeons.²¹⁴ Over 16 percent of working women, or 6,090, in Oregon were engaged in healthcare in 1940. The overall number of women in healthcare doubled in 1950, but at this time, this only comprised about 8 percent of working women as more fields were opening up to them. Twice as many women as men worked in healthcare, primarily in nursing, after World War II.²¹⁵

During the 1918 influenza pandemic, Harriet Jane Lawrence, one of the first women to work as a pathologist in the United States and the first in Oregon, developed a serum therapy that was sent to patients across the state. She was honored for her work by President Woodrow Wilson. Her laboratory, in the Sellers Building (**610 SW Alder Street** in Portland), was esteemed, and she worked closely with the Portland Board of Medical Examiners.²¹⁶

Oregon nurse Elnora Thomson became ANA president during the Great Depression and advocated for a modern nursing field. This involved training in colleges and universities instead of hospitals and better employment for RNs.²¹⁷ Education transitioned from institutions established by communities and religious orders to public educational systems. As a result, colleges and universities in the Pacific Northwest, such as the University of Oregon, established nursing programs.²¹⁸

Despite advocacy for standardization, some women continued to train through apprenticeship and set up home-based practices. Hattie Mayne, a practical nurse in Bend, opened the Mountain View Hospital in 1920 and then the Mayne Maternity Home (**1341 NE 3rd Street** in Bend; **Figure 20**) in 1931 to support maternity care in Central Oregon. The maternity home was own dwelling, and this use of a personal residence for a clinic

²¹⁰ Patricia Schechter, "The Labor of Caring: A History of the Oregon Nurses Association." *Oregon Historical Society*. Vol. 108, no. 1. <https://www.ohs.org/oregon-historical-quarterly/back-issues/upload/Schechter-LaborCaringHistory-OHQ-Spring-2007.pdf>

²¹¹ Tess, "Portland Sanitarium Nurses' Quarters, Portland, Multnomah County".

²¹² Hancock, "Trudy Rice's Story: Nursing and Race in Oregon History".

²¹³ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920*, Vol. 4.

²¹⁴ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 52. U.S. Department of Commerce, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930*, Vol. 4.

²¹⁵ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930*, Vol. 4; U.S. Department of Commerce, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940*, Vol. 3, Part 4; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Seventeenth Census of the United States: 1950*, Vol. 2 (Government Printing Office, 1953).

²¹⁶ Morgen Young, "Harriet Lawrence (1883–1974)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

²¹⁷ Schechter, "Oregon Nurses Association".

²¹⁸ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 35.

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space was not uncommon for either women or men working in healthcare at the time.²¹⁹ In small towns, especially, male physicians also ran practices from their residences. Dr. David Reid ran the only medical clinic in Mill City from his house (**525 NE Alder Street** in Mill City) from 1938 to 1953. He added an “x-ray room, dark room, reception area, doctor’s office, and examining rooms” in addition to rooms for personal living.²²⁰

The vacuum of male labor during World War II expanded roles for women in hospitals and clinics, marking the beginning of a shift in training. ANA’s exclusion of nurses without training could not be upheld during the war, and all women with nursing experience were relied on. This led to the organization of groups associated with Licensed Practical Nurses.²²¹ Japanese American women, isolated in internment camps, were allowed to leave for nursing work in the war effort. During the war, nurses worked at places like Camp White in Medford, a semi-mobile United States Army base.²²² May Alm recalls her time there as an Army Nurse Corps captain on a unit with 40 nurses, 20 doctors, and 40 servicemen.²²³ After World War II, about one-third of the women in professional occupations were in healthcare, and public education expanded to train this growing work group.²²⁴

Advocacy, Access, and New Medical Practices

The number of women working in healthcare continued to grow at the end of the twentieth century. Women were increasingly entering medical schools and opening practices, although doctors were still primarily male. Nearly 30 percent of working women in Oregon, or 29,137, were in medical and health positions in 1960. Between 1970 and 1980, the number of female physicians nationwide increased from 7 percent of all physicians to 10 percent.²²⁵ Concurrent with an era of equal and civil rights activism, women advocated for equality and rights in healthcare.

Some women opened medical clinics in partnerships. Roger Jr. and Flora Biswell established a joint clinic in Baker City. The couple met at the University of Oregon Medical School and married in 1933. After their marriage, they completed their residencies in California: Flora at the San Francisco Women’s and Children’s Hospital. In 1936, while Flora was finishing her residency, the couple opened a medical office in the Sommer Building in Baker City (corner of **Main and Washington streets** in Baker City). In 1940, the Biswells had a home constructed at the intersection of Main and B streets in Baker City, immediately south of where they eventually built a dedicated clinic. In January 1941, Roger enlisted in the Army to serve during World War II, and Flora operated the office. After the war, the Biswells constructed a purpose-built, one-story, brick-clad, L-plan building to house the Biswell Clinic (**2790 Main Street** in Baker City; **Figure 21**). The clinic had 15 rooms that included a small surgery room, laboratory, X-ray room, vaccination room, recovery rooms, treatment rooms, and private offices for the doctors. A private entry at the rear of the building was designed for emergency patients. When the clinic opened in 1950, the Biswells employed a nurse technician and an administrative assistant.²²⁶

²¹⁹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women’s Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 78; Sue Fountain, “Where Were You Born?,” *The Homesteader: Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter*, June, 2019.

²²⁰ Richard Robertson and Cathy Robertson, “Hinkle-Reid House, Mill City, Marion County,” Oregon State Historical Society (1993), National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

²²¹ Schechter, “Oregon Nurses Association.”

²²² Bill Morlin, “Spokane Army Nurse Shares Tales of WWII,” *HeraldNet*, November 8, 2008. Schechter, “Oregon Nurses Association.”

²²³ Morlin, “Spokane Army Nurse Shares Tales of WWII.”

²²⁴ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Detailed Characteristics: Oregon, The United States at the Seventeenth Census: 1950*, (Government Printing Office, 1950).

²²⁵ Pinnacle Health Group, Number of Physicians, 2026.

²²⁶ Stantec Consulting Services Inc., *Report for Reconnaissance and Intensive Level Surveys: Oregon Women’s Labor History Project*.

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Although the segregated NACGN merged with the ANA in 1951, expansion of opportunity for Black women in healthcare after the war remained slow and hard-won. The first Black woman to graduate from Oregon nursing schools was Beatrice Gilmore in 1955; it was another decade before the second Black woman graduated from nursing school in Oregon.²²⁷ Gertrude “Trudy” Rice became one of the first African American registered nurses in the state in 1968. As Rice began her career in the 1970s, over 95 percent of RNs were white and predominantly middle class. Like many women of color, despite her education, Rice began her career as a health coordinator, which was a lower professional position than an RN, in the Portland Public School system.²²⁸

Nurses, especially women of color, demanded change during the 1960s and 1970s. In 1961, HB 1360, a bill for collective bargaining of nurses, passed, largely due to ONA advocacy. The National Black Nurses Association was founded in 1971 and the National Association of Hispanic Nurses in 1976. In 1975, Elizabeth Washington became the first woman of color on the State Board of Nursing in Oregon. ONA won strikes during the 1980s in Eugene and Springfield.²²⁹ In 1990, only 20 Black women in Oregon worked in health diagnosing occupations and 182 in health assessment and treatment occupations. That year, a total of over 25,000 women, mostly white, comprised the two occupations. About 10 percent of all working white women in Oregon were in healthcare. Women of Asian and Pacific Islander descent comprised 117 health diagnosing positions and 541 health assessment and treatment positions. Women of American Indian, Eskimo, Aleut and other races had fewer healthcare professionals counted than Black women.²³⁰

Conclusion

The evolving role of women in Oregon’s healthcare field throughout the twentieth century includes their major participation as nurses and increasing participation as physicians. Major events like World War I, the 1918 influenza epidemic, and World War II expanded opportunities for women, especially as the demand for trained nurses surged and traditional barriers relaxed or were broken. Over time, women working in healthcare shifted from largely home-based and apprenticeship models into formal medical and nursing programs at colleges and universities, yet they continued to confront restricted access to medical schools, exclusion from professional networks, and discriminatory hiring and promotion practices; these barriers fell especially hard on women of color. Advocacy efforts, collective bargaining, and the founding of organizations for minority nurses are noted as pivotal in broadening access and rights. At the late twentieth century, women still made up a significant portion of Oregon’s healthcare workforce, although leadership roles and certain professions remained male-dominated.

Women’s paid labor in healthcare is significant to Oregon’s history and encompasses a variety of resources that may have significance. Through Oregon’s history as a state, women held the majority of jobs in the healthcare industry, working as apprenticed, hospital-trained, and university- and college-educated nurses, doctors, healthcare leaders, specialists, and assistive personnel. The history of women’s paid roles caring for the sick and supporting the healthy are apparent in hospitals, clinics, pharmacies, nursing dormitories, and laboratories in communities across the state. They may be located in stylized buildings or in a section of a private dwelling. Properties may be privately or publicly owned and operated.

²²⁷ Patricia Schechter. “The Labor of Caring: A History of the Oregon Nurses Association.” Oregon Historical Society. OHQ Vol. 108, no. 1. <https://www.ohs.org/oregon-historical-quarterly/back-issues/upload/Schechter-LaborCaringHistory-OHQ-Spring-2007.pdf>

²²⁸ Hancock, “Trudy Rice’s Story: Nursing and Race in Oregon History”.

²²⁹ Schechter, “Oregon Nurses Association”.

²³⁰ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Census 1990: Social and Economic Characteristics, Oregon*.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT V: INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION

During the nineteenth century, paid industrial employment for women was limited. The state's economy was dominated by agriculture and lumber, sectors that overwhelmingly employed men. Small concentrations of women worked in canneries, textiles and woolens factories, laundries, and food-related businesses through the early twentieth century. These positions often constituted long hours and low pay. Investigations revealed women in canneries standing 10-plus hours a day cutting fish, and laundry women toiling in humidity and heat for meager wages. Moreover, job segregation by gender was strict: women were generally hired for the lowest-tier, least-skilled roles, like sewing machine operators, packing line workers, and clerical assistants, while men held supervisory and skilled craft positions. Significantly, women stepped up to support manufacturing and shipbuilding during World War II and continued in food processing after the war. Some women were also rarely engaged in the timber industry, but women largely vacated the industrial sector, concurrently with a decrease in canning industries, during the late twentieth century.

Oregon's Early Male-dominated Industries

As the state's agricultural production increased during the late nineteenth century, transportation networks connected to Oregon, and technology mechanized industry, the processing and manufacturing industries grew for larger scale distribution but largely employed men. In 1870, only 91 women worked in manufacturing and mechanical industries and 16 in agriculture, fisheries and mining as compared to 4,229 and 17,520 men, respectively. By 1890, this increased to 2,440 women in manufacturing and mechanical industries and over 900 in agriculture, fisheries and mining as compared to 20,520 and 50,080 men, respectively. Additionally, across the state, there were 164 women working in laundry, 72 in cotton and other textile mills, and nearly 20 percent of working women, or almost 2,000, occupied dressmaker, milliner, and seamstress positions. Men predominantly worked in agriculture as laborers or farmers; however, a growing number were fisher- or oystermen (1,473), lumbermen (1,818), carpenters or joiners (5,285), or working in saw and planing mills (1,962). Over 500 men were listed as working in canneries or packing plants, but no women.²³¹ The 1900 census first records women working in canneries and packing plants, but fewer than 40 compared to over 400 men. About 20 percent of working men and women were in manufacturing and mechanical pursuits. Small pockets of industries began hiring women, including 135 women working as woolen mill operatives and 125 women working as compositors.²³² No women were recorded working in fish canneries, and 35 women were working in meat or fruit canneries. Laundry was also an increasing employment option for women, with over 500 employed; however, nearly twice as many men worked in the industry. White men continue to work in carpentry, fishing, mining, and other industries aligned with lumber.²³³ The 1869 Burlingame Treaty allowed Chinese citizens to immigrate to the United States, and many came seeking employment. In Oregon, Chinese men worked in mining, railroad, and building construction, factories, canneries, and fishing during the nineteenth century. Chinese women held industrial positions, like laundry workers, and domestic positions, like cooks, gardeners, and domestic servants.²³⁴ Demand for miners near present-day Coos Bay drew Black workers from Appalachia, but they were discouraged from permanent settlement after the mines ran out. Black loggers worked around Maxville in the 1920s and 1930s, and Black families settled in small communities, like

²³¹ U.S. Department of the Interior, *Report on the Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890, Vol. 1, Part 2, Section 4*.

²³² U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor, "Special Report: Occupations at the Twelfth Census".

²³³ U.S. Department of the Interior, *Census Reports, Volume II: Population, Part I*.

²³⁴ Tania Hyatt-Evenson, "Chinese Vegetable Gardens, Portland," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2002.

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La Grande, to work on the railroad in Eastern Oregon.²³⁵ Native men left reservations and harvested timber year-round.²³⁶

Women Enter Factory Work

Textiles and laundry became major employers for women in Oregon after the turn of the century. Textile mills were in cities like Oregon City, Portland, Salem, Pendleton, Eugene, Union, Albany, Bandon, and Brownsville. They ranged in size and production and were supplied by Oregon's robust sheep industry. Factories advertised for women and girls to fill a range of positions and had anywhere from several to over 100 women working at a time.²³⁷ Textile mills typically had large, rectangular buildings with relatively open plans for workspace and associated ancillary buildings for specialized purposes, offices and storage. The Thomas Kay Woolen Mill (**260 12th Street SE** in Salem; **Figure 22**) opened in 1890 in Salem and hired women as weavers and machine operators. Architect Walter D. Pugh designed the three-and-a-half-story, timber-supported building with fire-resistant materials and optimized its layout to promote an efficient manufacturing workflow. A separate one-story dye and picker house was affiliated. The mill was highly productive into the mid-1920s and employed women, men, and children to work 10-hour shifts on every day but Sunday.²³⁸

Similarly, commercial laundries recruited women and girls to work. In 1910, around 1,500 women worked in commercial laundries, which had emerged as a profitable business of washing, drying, and ironing clothing using newly developed machinery. Laundries were found across cities in Oregon, ranging in size from small businesses to large factories. Depending on the business size, the laundry could be in a one-story wood-frame commercial building (**Figure 23**), a brick two-part commercial building in a downtown commercial district (**Figure 24**), or an expansive complex that extends over a block.²³⁹ The Italian Renaissance-style two-story brick masonry Yale Union Laundry building (**800 SE 10th Street** in Portland) was purpose-built as a commercial laundry building with structurally sound floors to support the equipment; a main floor for pick-up, delivery, checking and sorting; a basement with hot-water boilers for the labor-intensive washing; and a top floor for drying and ironing. Later additions included expansions for trucks and facilities for worker breaks and restrooms to fulfill union demands. Yale Union Laundry was one of 68 laundries in the city, 37 of which were Chinese- or Japanese-owned, when it opened. The most labor-intensive laundry tasks were performed by women.²⁴⁰ Lillian Wong purchased a 1908 two-story brick commercial building with a stepped parapet (**221-223 NW 3rd Avenue** in Portland) around 1950. It had housed the New China Laundry, a Chinese hand laundry owned by Gordon and Flo Wong, from 1943 until a fire in 1970.²⁴¹ Some laundries, like Elite Laundry (**H and 5th streets**) in Grant's Pass, may have had associated housing (**Figure 25**).²⁴²

²³⁵ Millner, "Black People in Oregon".

²³⁶ Robbins, "This Land, Oregon: New Assaults on Indian Land".

²³⁷ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 39.

²³⁸ Amy Vandegrift, "Thomas Kay Woolen Mills," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, The Oregon Historical Society.

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/thomas_kay_woolen_mills/

²³⁹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 41.

²⁴⁰ Roberta Raymond, "Yale Union Laundry Building, Portland, Multnomah County," Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (2007), National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

²⁴¹ Northwest Heritage Property Associates, "Portland New Chinatown/Japantown Historic District, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon," Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (1989), National Register of Historic Places Registration Form; Restore Oregon, Wong Laundry Building, 2025.

²⁴² Sanborn Map Company, Fire Insurance Map, 1907.

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Rare examples of women working in specialty manufacturing include Marguerette Therrien, who worked in Coos Bay Veneer and Box Company in Marshfield (now Coos Bay) during the 1920s, and Eleanor Anderson, who assembled piecework for a cedar-veneer plant, also in Coos Bay.²⁴³

Women in Canneries

Historical accounts and photographs describe women working at canneries during the late nineteenth century, and their often seasonal employment may be undercounted in the census. Fish, primarily salmon, canneries were on the coast and the Columbia River in towns like Astoria and Warrenton. Fruit and vegetable canneries were across the state near large-scale farms and orchards in Salem, Eugene, The Dalles, Freewater, Monroe, Forest Gove, Ashland, Hood River, and Medford.²⁴⁴ Only 11 women are listed as working in fish curing and packing in 1920, and 171 women are engaged in fruit and vegetable canning. While women worked in industry associated with agriculture, almost none worked in fishing. A similar number is recorded in the 1930 census for women; however, 190 men worked in fish curing and packing, and over 400 in fruit and vegetable canning.²⁴⁵ Women worked as fish cleaners, food packers, or in offices. During the 1910s, women in fish canneries worked 10-hour days for \$1.50 per day, \$1.00 less than men.²⁴⁶ Cannery work was often seasonal, and women and girls, who were not always employed in other year-round positions, made ideal workers.²⁴⁷

Chinese and Japanese men comprised most of the workers in fish canneries through the early twentieth century. They were eventually displaced by white workers due to bans and limitations on Asian immigration, starting with the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, coupled with discriminatory attitudes from local white residents. Women also worked in some canneries. In the mid-1920s, the Elmore Cannery in Astoria, which was in business from 1886 to 1980, employed 18 white women, 7 Japanese women, and 3 Chinese women on average each month. Working groups were segregated by ethnicity rather than skill.²⁴⁸

J. O. Hathorn opened a salmon cannery on a pier in Astoria (**1 9th Street** in Astoria; **Figure 26**) in 1875. In about 30 years, eight buildings comprised the cannery complex, including cold storage units, a copper shop, butchering and fillet rooms, a living picking area, and a mess house for Chinese workers. More buildings were added in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1961, the cannery became Bumble Bee Seafoods. It closed in the 1980s. Women worked in many of the cannery jobs. Women workers of Astoria are commemorated with a monument in Cannery Women's Park (**Astoria Riverwalk east of 39th Street** in Astoria). In Athena, the P. J. Burke Canning Company was founded in 1935 and hired women in its cannery. Hulled peas were trucked to the cannery (**118 E. Main Street** in Athena) for processing, packing and distribution.²⁴⁹

Women Rise to Meet the Challenge

The Great Depression of the 1930s brought new pressures. Unemployment for men skyrocketed, and there was social backlash against working married women. This was due to the prevailing sentiment that men should be breadwinners and women should be caretakers in the home, and the concern that women would be taking jobs from men in a limited economy. Industries, like laundry, began to decline as services became a luxury;

²⁴³ Robbins, "This Land, Oregon: Technology and Labor"; U.S. Department of Commerce, *Population, Volume III: Composition and General Characteristics of the Population by States*.

²⁴⁴ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 40.

²⁴⁵ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Vol. 4*.

²⁴⁶ Cain Allen, "Women Cannery Workers," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2006.

²⁴⁷ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 40.

²⁴⁸ Cain Allen, "Women Can Fillers, Elmore Cannery," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2006.

²⁴⁹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 157; Mildred Searcey, "Pea Production," *Pioneer Trails*, Volume 6, No. 3 (1982).

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although over 1,600 women, about 72 percent of all laundry workers, were in the occupation in 1930.²⁵⁰ Some employers in Oregon even barred married women from hiring lists, and a few school districts fired married women teachers with the prejudicial reasoning that husbands should be the breadwinners. The Works Progress Administration, which was established to provide jobs, included limited positions for women, involving sewing or housekeeping. Despite this, the proportion of women in Oregon's workforce rose during the Great Depression.²⁵¹ The number of women employed in textile mills and factories plummeted from 1,200 in 1929 to around 200 or 250 in 1930.²⁵² By 1940, about 20 percent of Oregon women were employed—many because their family needed a second income when husbands lost jobs or took pay cuts. Canneries continued to provide consistent work for women without specialized skills or education.²⁵³

Starting in the early 1930s, bulldozers and other advanced machinery increased the productivity of the logging industry; however, it remained male-dominated. Contract loggers often ran independent operations and were hired by larger companies. Women were part of many of these small and mobile communities. Some women, like Margaret Elley Felt, who published an autobiography of her seven years working with her husband in the post-World War II timber industry, worked alongside their husbands in various capacities. Felt was an equal partner in her husband's independent contracting business.²⁵⁴ Other women supported the loggers' small businesses with bookkeeping, informal healthcare, and domestic tasks like cooking. Native American contract loggers worked along the east and west sides of Cascade.²⁵⁵

During World War II, Oregon became a hub of war production. Opportunities and accommodations for women and other underrepresented groups became available as a result of white men deploying for the war. Kaiser's three shipyards in Portland and Vancouver, Washington, employed more than 125,000 workers, with women making up more than 25 percent (around 30,000 women) of the workforce. Women trained and fulfilled roles as welders, electricians, and shipfitters, among other technical and skilled jobs. Childcare was available on-site to accommodate the large number of women workers with children.²⁵⁶ Black men and women, as well as Native American men and women, were recruited and trained to work in the shipyards.²⁵⁷

Industry and Its Women Workers Decline

When World War II ended in August 1945, employers and policymakers actively pushed women to "go home" and make way for returning servicemen, and the opportunities for women workers regressed. Many women were laid off from factories and shipyards by late that year. The percentage of Oregon women in the labor force, which had peaked during the war, briefly plummeted. Defense contracts were canceled, and Kaiser's yards shut down entirely by 1946. Oregon's major unionized industries, like timber and shipping, were restaffed with men.²⁵⁸ In 1950, 27 percent of working men, or 115,806, continued to work in manufacturing, and only 9.7 percent, or 14,803, of working women. The 1940 census data, presented in the 1950 census for comparison,

²⁵⁰ Raymond, "Yale Union Laundry Building, Portland, Multnomah County". Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 59.

²⁵¹ Robbins, "This Land, Oregon: Hard Times".

²⁵² Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 58.

²⁵³ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 74.

²⁵⁴ Michael Dunn, "Gyppo Logger by Margaret E. Felt; Sound Wormy: Memoir of Andrew Gennett, Lumberman by Nicole Hayler," *Environmental History*, Volume 8, No. 2 (April, 2003).

²⁵⁵ Robert Walls, "Gyppo Logging in Oregon," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

²⁵⁶ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 61.

²⁵⁷ William G. Robbins, "This Land, Oregon: African American and Women Workers in World War II," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, 2002; A. E. Platt, "Native American Women from Chemawa Train to Work in Shipyards," in *Oregon History Project*, Oregon Historical Society, n.d.

²⁵⁸ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 62.

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cites 7,385 of the 86,244 working women, or 8.6 percent.²⁵⁹ The 1940 data likely underrepresents the number of women engaged in wartime manufacturing efforts.

Timber continued to be a major industry in Oregon after World War II. Some women joined logging operations. Ednabel Lee worked with her father as a horse logger in the 1940s and joined her husband in the same business. She did bookkeeping, supported the labor, and raised her family. LaVere Alexander trucked her own logs in Central and Eastern Oregon during the 1950s. She transported timber to mills in the region as an independent business.²⁶⁰

By 1950, the number of women at work in Oregon rebounded to its wartime high; however, most did not reenter industrial jobs but remained employed in the food processing sector. Processed food continued to be in demand after the war. In 1950, 160 facilities across the state employed about 1,500 women, more than half of their workforce. The Paulus Brothers' cannery (**1745 Oxford Street** in Salem) had 21 women and 86 working in three shifts. Prior to the war, food processing was primarily in the Willamette Valley, but it expanded to Umatilla, Malheur County, and Klamath County. Over 4,600 women worked at seafood canneries in places like Astoria, Newport, and Coos Bay after the war.²⁶¹ Many industrial jobs across Oregon diminished towards the end of the twentieth century. The long running Thomas Kay Woolen Mill (**260 12th Street SE** in Salem) closed in 1959 and laid off all of its workers.²⁶² Only six large canneries were in operation on the Columbia River in 1970 as the salmon supply decreased, and the last one, in Astoria, closed in 1980.²⁶³

By 1990, the occupations in the census had changed to reflect new technologies and economic shifts. Over 43,000 Oregon women, or 7.3 percent of working women, were operators, fabricators, and laborers. This included 2,520 Asian and Pacific Islander women; 752 American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut women; and 666 Black women. Concentrations of women also worked as machine operators and tenders, and fabricators, assemblers, inspectors, and samplers.²⁶⁴

Conclusion

The history of women in Oregon's industrial workforce demonstrates resilience and adaptability amid shifting economic and social landscapes. From the canneries and textile mills to the logging camps and wartime shipyards, women continually stepped into vital roles, often overcoming barriers of discrimination and exclusion. Although industrial opportunities for women declined in the later twentieth century, their contributions left a lasting impact on both the state's economy and its communities, paving the way for future generations to pursue broader opportunities in the workforce.

Although women entered the industrial workforce in small numbers, they rose to the challenge as industries, like textiles, and the nation's conditions, like the wars, needed workers. Their role parallels and amplifies these specific circumstances and moments in Oregon history. These properties may include manufacturing and processing facilities such as mills, factories, and processing plants; waterworks and energy facilities; laundries; lumberyards and mills; and canneries. Much of the work performed in these settings was labor-intensive and generally did not require advanced technical skills. Industrial and manufacturing properties are most often located within communities and near transportation corridors and shipping points, including railroad depots. They frequently consist of complexes of functionally designed buildings, with primary structures often taking

²⁵⁹ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Detailed Characteristics: Oregon*.

²⁶⁰ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 74.

²⁶¹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 74–75.

²⁶² Amy Vandegrift, "Thomas Kay Woolen Mills," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, The Oregon Historical Society.

https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/thomas_kay_woolen_mills/

²⁶³ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 95.

²⁶⁴ U.S. Department of Commerce, *Census 1990: Social and Economic Characteristics, Oregon*.

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the form of large, rectangular-plan warehouses that housed machinery, workers, and storage within expansive, uninterrupted interior spaces. Offices, storage structures, and other associated resources may be housed in separate buildings. Some properties may include large-scale industrial features, such as mill complexes. Applied architectural styles are uncommon, with utilitarian design predominating. Dates of construction, property associations, and settings may vary widely. This property type is found throughout Oregon, primarily in towns and population centers that provided a stable labor force and access to transportation networks for shipping finished products. Timber production facilities occur statewide but are concentrated in western Oregon, with additional manufacturing and processing sites in southern Oregon. Fish canneries are primarily located along the coast, particularly in northern Oregon, while produce canneries are most commonly found near fruit-growing areas in the Willamette Valley.

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F. Associated Property Types

(Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)

Properties eligible for the NRHP under this MPD are buildings, structures, objects, sites, or historic districts in Oregon with a significant association with women's paid labor and the integrity to convey that association. These places represent the experience of women in paid occupations across the state from 1878 to 1990. Nominated properties will illustrate the history of the limitations and opportunities that women experienced while being employed in paid work. The property types are primarily buildings or historic districts of buildings where manufacturing, production, or services took place. This associated property types section was informed by a statewide survey of properties associated with women's labor history and a list of related properties developed through research and outreach (see **Section H**).

SIGNIFICANCE

Properties eligible for listing in the NRHP under this MPD will retain integrity that conveys their significance associated with one or more of the historic contexts in **Section E**. Most eligible properties will be significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History/Women's History for associations with women's history in the state of Oregon. Properties may also be significant under Criterion A for other areas of significance, including but not limited to Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Health/Medicine, and Industry. Properties associated with women of color or women of underrepresented groups may be eligible under Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage. Properties associated with queer women may be eligible under Criterion A for Social History/LGBTQ History. Some properties may also be eligible under Criterion B for associations with a particular woman significant to Oregon's labor history or under Criterion D for their potential to provide important additional information about the history of women's paid labor in Oregon. Historic properties eligible under this MPD only need to be listed under one criterion and area of significance for inclusion in the NRHP.²⁶⁵

Properties that are eligible for listing in the NRHP under this MPD may also have significance in areas not discussed in **Section E** historic contexts; significance that is not associated with women's paid labor in Oregon as described in the **Section E** contexts must be justified with a separate historic context in the property's NRHP nomination. Likewise, properties that are eligible for listing in the NRHP under this MPD may also be eligible under Criterion C; this eligibility must be justified with a separate historic context and integrity analysis within the property's NRHP nomination.

Criterion A

This MPD may be used to list a property in the NRHP under Criterion A if the property has an important association with significant historic events, patterns of events, or trends that influenced, were representative of, or impacted women's labor history. The significant historic events, patterns of events, or trends associated with a property eligible under Criterion A in association with this MPD must be related to one or more of the historic contexts in **Section E**. Integrity of association is essential, and integrity of setting and feeling must be sufficiently intact that individuals familiar with the property during the period of significance could reasonably be expected to recognize it today.

²⁶⁵ Applicable to this MPD, National Register Bulletin 16A: "When selecting 'archeology,' 'ethnic heritage,' or 'maritime history,' also enter areas of significance that closely relate to the events, activities, characteristics, or information for which the property is significant." Linda Flint McClelland, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, National Register Bulletin 16A, (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, National Register of Historic Places, 1997), 39.

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Criterion B

This MPD may be used to list a property in the NRHP under Criterion B if it is associated with one of the historic contexts in **Section E** and is the property that best illustrates a significant person's (likely a woman's) important contributions within the context of women's paid labor in Oregon. Individuals do not need to be mentioned in the historic contexts provided in **Section E** to be eligible under Criterion B, but research must establish that the person is prominent within their field and that the property is illustrative of their contributions to women's labor history in Oregon. Evaluation should follow guidance in National Register Bulletin 32, *Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Properties Associated with Significant Persons*. The assessment of the significant person's achievements and contributions must consider the opportunities and limitations placed upon the person based on their gender, race, socioeconomic standing, and other relevant factors. Opportunities for white women, women of color, and women of other underrepresented groups may differ, and this should be taken into consideration. Integrity of association is essential, and integrity of setting and feeling must be sufficiently intact that members of the community would recognize the property during its period of significance.

Criterion D

Some research questions associated with women's paid work in Oregon will require study of a property's physical material culture to be answered. This MPD may be used to list a property (archaeological or not) in the NRHP under Criterion D for its potential to yield important information related to women's paid labor history in Oregon. Archaeological properties may be eligible independently under Criterion D or as components of properties with aboveground resources. Archaeological sites associated with women's paid labor may include sites related to seasonal or temporary work, institutional settings, domestic labor, industrial production, or other contexts identified in **Section E**. Integrity of location, materials, and association is essential for properties evaluated under Criterion D.

Other Associations

Properties associated with women's paid labor, including archaeological sites that are components of properties with aboveground resources, may additionally possess significance outside of the association with women's paid labor. That significance cannot be evaluated using the registration requirements included in this MPD. Any significant association outside of women's paid labor, including significance under Criterion C, must be detailed and justified separately under an appropriate historic context and according to the guidance in National Register Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*.

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GENERAL REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Historic properties eligible for listing in the NRHP under this MPD must fulfill all of the following requirements:

- Be located in the state of Oregon;
- Have a demonstrated, significant association with at least one of the historic contexts for women's paid labor provided in **Section E**;
- Have a period of significance between 1878 and 1990; and
- Retain integrity of association and any other aspects of integrity important to convey the associated area of significance from the identified period of significance.

Significant Association

Properties eligible for the NRHP under this MPD must represent a historically significant aspect of women's paid labor in the state of Oregon and the experience of women in these paid positions. Notably, the state of Oregon has a unique women's labor history based on its population makeup, state regulations, and economy. As described in **Section E**, the labor history of women in Oregon reflects a documented evolution of access, constraints, drivers, and opportunities over time.

Each property must be evaluated in relation to the prevailing limitations and opportunities available to the specific woman or women associated with the property's history during the period of significance. Limitations and opportunities differed for white women, women of color, and women of other underrepresented groups. Women have worked in a variety of professions over the history of Oregon and in many different properties; not every property where women were employed in paid labor will be eligible under this MPD.

A property demonstrates a significant association under Criterion A, B, or D in association with this MPD when it illustrates one or more of the following general principles, as applicable to the property type:

- Representative or exceptional examples of trends in women's paid labor identified in **Section E**, demonstrated through comparative analysis;
- Women's early, first, or expanded access to a profession, industry, or form of paid work;
- Women's leadership, ownership, authority, or decision-making roles in contexts where such roles were restricted;
- Paid work undertaken under conditions of exclusion, segregation, or differential access; and/or
- Employment patterns that reflect structural change, resistance, adaptation, or innovation in women's paid labor.

When applying these principles, the property should represent and illustrate a significant moment or pattern in the progression of women's labor history in Oregon. Properties eligible under Criterion D under this MPD need to be a principal source of important information related to some aspect women's paid labor in Oregon, as identified in **Section E** and demonstrated through comparative analysis. In addition to the above principles,

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evaluation of properties under Criterion D, particularly archaeological sites, for significant associations with women's labor history must consider whether:

- The site has, or is likely to have, diagnostic artifacts and intact features that contribute to understanding the history of women's paid labor in Oregon;
- The site has the potential to address research questions related to women's paid work that fill identified data gaps;
- The site represents a significant aspect or sector of women's work where aboveground resources are no longer extant; and
- The significance of the site can be corroborated through archival or documentary evidence.

Level of Significance

Most properties eligible under this MPD will be eligible at the local level, based on their significant association with one of the historic contexts in **Section E**. Locally significant properties may include properties like the first woman-owned business in a city, county, or region, or a property where a large concentration of women was employed. Properties significant at the state level may include properties like a wartime shipyard that recruited women across the state or a woman who was first in her profession within the state. Rarely, properties may be eligible at the national level for a particularly significant and far-reaching association with the history of women's paid labor.

Period of Significance

Historic properties nominated to the NRHP under this MPD will have achieved significance between 1878 and 1990. The date range begins with the 1878 Married Women's Property Act, which allowed married women to operate businesses and own property independent of their husbands. It ends in 1990, when Barbara Roberts was elected the first woman governor of Oregon, marking a woman's election to the job of the state's highest office. The period of significance for properties nominated to the NRHP under this MPD will be a date or range of dates falling between 1878 and 1990. The period of significance for a property associated with this MPD may not coincide with its year-built date but will always reflect the significant association with women's paid labor. Properties that are less than 50 years old at the time of nomination or that have a period of significance ending less than 50 years before the date of nomination must demonstrate exceptional significance under Criterion Consideration G, for properties that have achieved significance in the recent past, through comparative analysis.

Integrity

For a property to be eligible for listing in the NRHP, it must retain integrity to convey its significance.²⁶⁶ The NPS has identified seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A property need not possess all seven aspects to retain integrity; a combination of some or most may be sufficient.²⁶⁷ Character-defining features, those visual and physical characteristics of a property that shape the appearance of the resource, are assessed to understand the specific integrity of a property. A property must retain sufficient integrity of character-defining features to convey its association with Oregon women's labor history. Aspects of integrity can be weighed differently depending on the applicable NRHP

²⁶⁶ Patrick W. Andrus and Rebecca H. Shrimpton, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (1995).

²⁶⁷ Andrus and Shrimpton, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria*.

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criteria.²⁶⁸ For example, a property that is eligible under Criterion A for its historical associations should still possess sufficient physical integrity to be recognizably associated with the time or era in which it attained significance, but integrity of workmanship and materials may be less important to conveying its significance than integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, and association. Alterations completed during the period of significance do not detract from integrity and may be character-defining to the resource.

Interior spaces are considered character-defining features only when they are essential to understanding women's paid labor in Oregon at a property, and only when they are directly associated with women's paid labor in Oregon at a property. Important interior spaces may include, but are not limited to: offices, labs, classrooms, and areas of manufacturing or technical work where women performed paid labor; the overall plan of a building; the building's corridors; the division of public and private space; and built-in features related to and supporting women's work at a property. Interior integrity will be important for assessing most properties under Criterion A and essential for assessing most properties under Criterion B, because work typically occurs inside a building or structure. Finishes and other minor features may have been altered over time, but the characteristics that most reflect the labor that occurred in those spaces, like circulation patterns and spatial organization, must retain integrity for a property to be able to convey its significant association and be eligible for the NRHP under the framework of this MPD.

Properties that serviced customers or clients; manufactured, processed, sold, or distributed products; or provided services benefited from continuous improvements and upgrades. Therefore, many properties associated with paid work will reflect that continued investment in changes to historic design and materials. Properties must retain essential characteristics such that a property may demonstrate its significance. When evaluating integrity, these questions should be considered:

- Is this the original location of the property?
 - o If not, how far away was it moved, and how does the current location compare to the location during the period of significance? Relocated resources must be assessed under Criterion Consideration B. Integrity of location is lost by relocation, and integrity of setting and possibly feeling may also be diminished.
- What are the character-defining features of the property?
 - o What physical and visual features are important to understanding the property from the period of significance? Have the physical features been retained? The cumulative impact of multiple altered physical character-defining features may diminish integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. Has the setting visibly changed, impacting integrity of setting, and possibly integrity of feeling?
- What was the character of the property, surrounding properties and community, adjacent streets, commercial or residential districts, or transportation corridors like during the period of significance?
 - o Are the neighborhood character and land-use function, street grid and block pattern, circulation systems, building scale and massing, and any other defining physical features the same or similar to as they were then? Retention of these features and characteristics may support integrity of setting and feeling.

²⁶⁸ Andrus and Shrimpton, How to Apply the National Register Criteria.

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- What was the function and design of the resource or resources on the property during the period of significance?
 - o Is the use of the building from its period of significance apparent? Retention of the historic function may support integrity of feeling. Are the character-defining features, such as form, roof type, fenestration, massing, decorative or functional features, intact? Retention of these features may support integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.
 - o What modifications were made during the period of significance? Note that these must be identified, but do not detract from integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.
- How have resources on the property evolved since the period of significance?
 - o Has the historic property changed after the period of significance due to nearby infill, demolitions, or modifications to the resource? Retention of the overall historic setting and character-defining features may support integrity of setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship.
 - o Are there altered resources or resources built outside of the period of significance on the property? The number, scale, and placement of these may impact setting and feeling.
- What modifications appear to have been made since the period of significance?
 - o Does comparison with historical documentation, including permit records and historic photographs, indicate that modifications have occurred since the period of significance? Are some alterations clearly made from materials available after the period of significance? Alterations to a building's character-defining features after the period of significance may diminish integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.
 - o Would a person alive during the period of significance recognize the property today? This is especially important for assessing integrity when applying Criteria A and B using this MPD.
- What exterior forces or initiatives may have impacted integrity? How do these relate to the history of the property?
 - o Are there environmental, social, cultural, or physical factors (like infrastructure projects), sometimes outside of the control of the community or property owner, that have impacted the property? Examples of impacts may include diminished integrity of location through relocation, diminished integrity of setting through displacement of adjacent resources or changes to the character of the neighborhood, or diminished integrity of feeling and association for a residential neighborhood turned into a commercial corridor. These exterior forces and initiatives must clearly be explained in the NRHP nomination and their impact on aspects of integrity must convey a property's history in association with women's paid labor in Oregon.

All properties eligible for the NRHP under this MPD must retain integrity of association. Most properties will retain integrity of location, but some may be moved since the end of their period of significance and will require evaluation under Criterion Consideration B; integrity of setting and feeling may be intact despite a relocation. Resources with integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are likely stronger candidates for nomination, especially when the property's physical features are directly illustrative of the labor use. Some historic materials may not be apparent due to removal or concealment; however, the overall design intent, including massing, roof form, fenestration, and stylistic details, must be evident. In some cases, properties that have substantial modifications or that have been relocated may still be eligible if they are the only or best example of

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a property type, the most intact example of a type, or a rare surviving example. Justification through research, survey, and comparative analysis of comparable properties may be required to justify exceptional resources that have diminished integrity.

Properties eligible for the NRHP under Criterion B in association with this historic context will have some intact physical features and characteristics from the period of significance associated with the significant person. To communicate significance under Criterion B, a property must demonstrate integrity through its character-defining features associated with the important person and their significant contributions. Note that this person may not be associated with the building's construction, and alterations made between the original construction and the property's period of significance may be difficult to discern.

In many cases and for all areas of significance, the period of significance may differ from the original construction of the building, and alterations made between the original construction and the period of significance may be difficult to discern. In the absence of photographic documentation, dating of materials or building technologies may support identification of historic-age alterations. Modifications may reflect improvements related to use and significance.

Comparative Analysis

Due to the large quantity of properties associated with women's paid labor in Oregon, comparative analysis must be undertaken to assess the significance and integrity of a property. In all cases, comparative analysis must consider the level and period of significance of the nominated property.

For a property to be eligible under Criterion A for its association with important historic events and trends, the property must be significant as compared with extant examples of contemporaneous resources associated with those same events or trends. Consideration must include whether the comparable properties are the same property type/have the same function, and whether they are associated with the same individuals or groups. For example, a comparative analysis of properties associated with women of color must compare other properties associated with women of color. Comparison under Criterion A will also inform integrity evaluations because different kinds of properties or properties associated with different sectors or kinds of work may display particular character-defining features.

For properties eligible under Criterion B, the nomination must illustrate that a property best represents the contribution of an individual, as compared to all other properties associated with the individual. The nomination must also establish the significance of the individual in comparison to her contemporaries. In some cases, like a woman of color or a woman from an underrepresented group who was the first in her profession, there may be no other properties associated with the individual to compare against due to the limited access to certain careers. The research to confirm the rarity or singularity of this example must be demonstrated in the NRHP nomination.

Properties in underrepresented communities may reflect a comparatively higher degree of physical alteration or setting change due to deliberate improvements, community disinvestment, or other factors. Comparative analysis with comparable properties must be undertaken for assessment of significance and integrity. Due to the limited number of women of color and women from underrepresented groups historically working in Oregon, comparative analysis with places where men of color and from underrepresented groups worked may be appropriate to establish a context but must not be used for comparative analysis because they are not associated with women's paid labor history in Oregon.

As previously stated, all properties eligible for the NRHP in association with women's paid labor in Oregon under the framework of this MPD have the potential to possess significance outside of that association, and

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such significance cannot be evaluated using the framework of this MPD, but must be assessed separately under an appropriate historic context and according to guidance in National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criterion for Evaluation*.

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ASSOCIATED PROPERTY TYPES

Seven property types are associated with the historic contexts in **Section E** and were informed by the identification and evaluation methods detailed in **Section H**: They are: **Properties Associated with Women in Agriculture, Businesses Owned by or Employing Women, Properties Associated with Professional Women in the Office, Properties Associated with Women in Education, Properties Associated with Women in Healthcare, and Properties Associated with Women in Industrial Occupations.**

Properties associated with labor organization, unionization, or labor advocacy may be eligible under this MPD when the property's significance is directly tied to women's paid labor, such as organizing women workers, improving access to employment, wages, or working conditions, or representing women's leadership within labor movements. Properties whose primary significance is labor advocacy unrelated to women's paid labor, specifically, cannot be evaluated using the framework of this MPD.

Properties Associated with Women in Agriculture*Description*

Oregon properties associated with women's paid labor in agriculture include farms that women owned or played key, formalized roles in for income production; large farms, orchards, and other agricultural operations where women were hired as laborers; and other agricultural-related businesses, like nurseries. In rare cases, women may have owned and/or held operational roles on large farms, orchards, or other agricultural operations. Farms, orchards, ranches, and other properties where agricultural products are grown will likely be found in rural areas of Oregon. Large-scale orchards and farms will be concentrated in the Willamette Valley but may be located elsewhere. Ranching and hay production were concentrated in Central and Eastern Oregon. Woman-owned farms and nurseries will be found across the state.²⁶⁹ Agricultural properties will have varied dates of construction. They are likely to be located in rural areas with rural settings, though some resources (like nurseries) could potentially be located in urban environments. The built environment of a farm may have a primary domestic zone for the owner with a dwelling and resources associated with subsistence farming and daily activities. An adjacent agricultural zone may have resources associated with the primary agricultural production, like barns, garages, and storage facilities. Agricultural pastures, meadows, vineyards, orchards, and cultivated fields may be located outside of these zones. Large-scale agricultural operations may have similar resources with large agricultural zones and landscape features. Other agriculture-related businesses may include horticulture facilities, like nurseries and greenhouses, and may have specialty facilities and office buildings. Ranching or dairying properties associated with land animal raising may have both domestic and agricultural zones with livestock barns and pastures with shelters for animals, while others may not have a domestic zone.

Subsistence farming is omitted from this property type because it is not an intentional income-producing endeavor. Paid labor associated with industrial processing, such as canneries or packing facilities, may occur on agricultural properties, but when women's paid labor is primarily associated with industrial or processing activities, those resources must be evaluated under **Properties Associated with Women in Industrial/Extraction/Processing Occupations**. When women's paid labor is primarily associated with agricultural production, cultivation, or harvest, the property must be evaluated under this property type. Properties may have more than one area and period of significance when supported by research.

²⁶⁹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 108.

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Significance

This property type will typically be significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History/Women's History and Agriculture. Large agricultural operations must also be evaluated under Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage if they hired a significant concentration of ethnic or immigrant women workers. Agricultural property types eligible under Criterion A may be farms, orchards, canneries or other agricultural endeavors with permanent or seasonal women employees and/or women owners. An example of an agricultural property type is Wigrich Farms (**5835 Wigrich Road** in Independence), which was one of the largest hop growers in Oregon during the early twentieth century and notably hired women workers for harvest. It has a domestic zone and several associated cultivated fields.

Properties associated with women in agriculture may also be significant under Criterion B for their association with a significant female owner, innovator, or labor organizer (see **Registration Requirements**). For example, Grace Dinsdale opened the Blooming Nursery (**3839 SW Golf Course Road** in Cornelius) in 1981 as a rare woman-owned nursery business.²⁷⁰ Comparative analysis must be undertaken to establish the significance of the owner in relation to other comparable owners. Oral and community histories will often be valuable for researching the subject and comparative properties.

Properties associated with women engaged in paid work in agriculture may be eligible under Criterion D for their potential to yield important information related to women's paid labor history in Oregon. Research into the physical characteristics of these properties may help answer a range of relevant research questions only evident through physical material culture, such as:

- What was the experience of paid women workers living in picker communities in Oregon? How did this experience differ for women of color and women of underrepresented groups?
- How did the experience of women working in agriculture in Oregon differ across different regions?
- What does the spatial arrangement of picker communities where paid women workers lived indicate about the social structure, segregation of groups (domestically and at work), and opportunity for labor activities?
- How temporary was the nature of picker sites where women who worked in paid seasonal labor lived?

Registration Requirements

To be eligible for the NRHP under this MPD, the following registration requirements apply to this property type:

- An agricultural property must demonstrate a documented association with paid women's labor in income-producing agriculture work, rather than unpaid family labor alone.
- The property must retain integrity of setting, feeling, and association such that community members would recognize it as an agricultural property from its period of significance.

Other considerations:

- Research may indicate that women were compensated through a trade of room and board rather than money; for the purposes of evaluation using this MPD, this meets the definition of paid labor.

²⁷⁰ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 109.

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- Orchards and large farms relied on seasonal, and sometimes permanent, laborers for harvesting. Historic employment records may be difficult to obtain or nonexistent, especially for seasonal workers. Oral histories, newspaper articles, and community histories may supplement other sources to verify women's paid work at an agricultural property.
- Due to the nature of agricultural work, there may never have been permanent aboveground resources associated with the paid work in places like orchards. To be listed, the property must meet the criteria described in *National Register Bulletin #30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes*, which provides guidance for evaluating these types of properties.
- Criterion D may be considered especially for properties associated with seasonal workers and temporal communities. To be eligible under Criterion D, archeological properties associated with women in agriculture must have the potential to provide important information about the experience of seasonal workers at agricultural properties. Oral histories may support the identification of historic-age sites that provide information potential for the experience of women in these roles.
- Noncontributing and/or altered resources are likely on agricultural properties due to their evolving nature. Collections of historically significant resources can counterbalance concentrations of noncontributing resources if they collectively retain integrity of setting, feeling, and association. The layout of the property from the period of significance must be apparent.
- Comparative analysis of an agricultural property's development with examples comparable in production, geography, layout, and function must be undertaken to inform the integrity evaluation.
- Agricultural properties may have multiple areas and periods of significance. For example, a woman-owned orchard or farm could have an early period associated with establishment or agricultural production and a later period associated with women's paid labor. When a property has multiple significant associations, each area and period of significance must be identified, defined, and supported, and any significance unrelated to women's paid labor and therefore supported by this MPD must be assessed through an appropriate historic context in the nomination.
- Integrity of domestic zones is less important for this property type because paid agricultural labor primarily occurred in agricultural work zones and fields; therefore, the domestic zone may not illustrate a significant association with or aspect of the history of women's paid labor in Oregon.

Domestic Properties Associated with Paid Women's Labor*Description*

Domestic properties associated with women's paid labor include dwellings where women undertook paid domestic tasks like sewing, cooking, and cleaning; institutional housing and camps where women lived while working; boarding houses and tourist homes operated by or employing women; and home-based businesses, for professionals such as doctors, lawyers, or architects. This property type is limited to residential resources and may include single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, hotels or motels, and institutional housing. Most of these properties will be found in towns or urban areas. Residential properties will have varied construction dates, architectural styles, locations, settings, and other associations.

Paid labor described in other property types, including **Properties Associated with Women in Education** and **Businesses Owned by or Employing Women**, may take place at a domestic property. When the historic use of the resource was primarily residential during the period of significance, the property must be evaluated

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under this property type. When a domestic property contributes to a larger institutional, agricultural, commercial, or professional complex, or when the residential use is clearly subordinate to another historic function, the property may be evaluated under the relevant associated property type. Domestic properties that did not have a primarily residential use during the period of significance, like a dwelling that is fully used as a retail store, are not part of this property type. Healthcare clinics or medical offices housed in dwellings, even partially private, will be evaluated under **Properties Associated with Women in Healthcare** because they will require the specific functions of a healthcare practice.

Significance

This property type will typically be significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History/Women's History. It may additionally be eligible under Criterion A for Commerce, Education, Healthcare, Ethnic Heritage, and/or Social History/LGBTQ History. Domestic properties eligible under Criterion A may be dwellings that functioned as professional offices for architects, lawyers, and business owners, among others. They may be dwellings that housed women workers as a form of compensation. They may be dwellings that held service businesses, like restaurants. They may also be dwellings where women were paid to complete domestic tasks. The Multnomah County Hospital Nurses' Quarters (**3037 SW Second Avenue** in Portland) is an example of a residential property associated with healthcare. It was purpose-built housing for nurses at the county hospital, reflecting the gendered trend of and demand for the nursing profession.

Outside of home-based businesses, most domestic properties associated with paid women's work will not be a woman's own personal residence. In rare cases, however, a woman's personal home may be the best representation of her significant contributions or accomplishments and significant under Criterion B. Domestic property types eligible under Criterion B may include dwellings that function as professional home offices. They may also be dwellings that held businesses, like tourist homes. Comparative analysis will be required to establish that the residential property best represents the contributions or work of the significant individual. Oral and community history may support this. Examples of properties that may be evaluated under Criterion B are the Edith Yang House (**1020 30th Street** in Corvallis), which was designed by Yang, the first licensed minority architect in Oregon, and housed her studio and office as well as her personal residence. Also, the Antoinette Marie Kuzmanich and Mark Hatfield House (**883 High Street SE** in Salem), which was the primary location for Antoinette Hatfield's authoring of five cookbooks.²⁷¹

Properties associated with women conducting paid work in dwellings may be eligible under Criterion D for their potential to yield important information related to women's paid labor history in Oregon. Research into the physical characteristics of these properties may help answer a range of relevant research questions, such as:

- Were the accommodations provided to Oregon women workers in lieu of monetary payment an equitable form of compensation (equal to the monetary value)?
- How did a business that a woman earned money from in Oregon, housed in a dwelling, impact the spatial organization and functional spaces of the interior as well as the dynamics of the domestic sphere, especially within architectural plans lacking dedicated home offices?
- What decisions led a professional woman in Oregon to run a business out of her personal home rather than a dedicated office or commercial space?
- How did a professional office run by a woman from her personal home in Oregon impact, limit, or expand the type of clientele she was able to work with?

²⁷¹ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 110.

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Registration Requirements

To be eligible for the NRHP under this MPD, the following registration requirements apply to this property type:

- A domestic property must illustrate a consequential or organized pattern of paid women's labor, rather than incidental or commonplace domestic employment.
- Eligible properties must possess character-defining features that illustrate scale, specialization, organization, and/or segregation of paid domestic labor identified in **Section E**.
- Interior spaces directly associated with women's paid labor (e.g., the spaces where paid labor was performed, such as an office or workshop), must retain integrity where those spaces are essential to understanding significance.
- Comparative analysis is required due to the prevalence of domestic employment across residential properties. Under Criterion A significance, comparative analysis must compare the property to comparable domestic properties associated with similar women's paid labor. Under Criterion B significance, comparative analysis with other properties associated with the significant individual must illustrate that the nominated property is uniquely or particularly representative of the individual's significant contributions.
- The property must retain integrity of design, setting, feeling, and association such that community members would recognize the building as a domestic property from its period of significance.

Other considerations:

- Research must document that women were paid for their work at these properties (or that the property was part of employment compensation, like institutional housing), and that this labor was central to the property's historic significance. Employment records may not exist or be difficult to obtain for verification. Oral histories may supplement research to verify paid work.
- Properties will likely have undergone changes over time to support continued use and occupation. Some historic materials may not be apparent due to removal or concealment; however, the overall design intent, including massing, roof form, fenestration, and stylistic details on the façade must be evident. Should unsympathetic replacement materials completely change a resource from its appearance during the period of significance, it no longer retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.
- Single- and multi-family dwellings that housed businesses during a period of significance may have reverted to primarily residential use. A domestic property may retain its residential character while still undergoing alterations that affect integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Integrity must be evaluated in relation to the specific paid labor undertaken at the property during the period of significance. If the property has been converted to an entirely different function, evaluation of integrity of feeling and association must consider whether the change in use, together with associated alterations to design, materials, workmanship, or spatial organization, has diminished the property's ability to convey its association with women's paid labor during the period of significance.

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Businesses Owned by or Employing Women*Description*

Businesses owned by or employing women are commercial endeavors that provide goods or services. These include restaurants, shops, beauty salons, milliners, tailors, and department stores. These do not include professional practices or offices (see **Properties Associated with Professional Women in the Office**). These businesses may be in shared commercial buildings along commercial corridors. In other cases, they will be in standalone buildings. These buildings range in year built, scale, architectural style, location, and association. They are located in all communities in Oregon.

Home-based businesses will be assessed under **Domestic Properties Associated with Paid Women's Labor**, but retail stores housed in converted dwellings will be assessed under this property type, even if they have been converted back to dwellings after the period of significance. Businesses owned by or employing women in education, healthcare, and industrial and manufacturing occupations will be evaluated under **Properties Associated with Women in Education**, **Properties Associated with Women in Healthcare**, and **Properties Associated with Women in Industrial/Extraction/Processing**, respectively. These registration requirements are specific to the property types associated with the occupations.

Significance

This property type will typically be significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History/Women's History. It may also be eligible under Criterion A for Commerce, Ethnic Heritage, and/or Social History/LGBTQ History. Other areas of significance may become apparent based on the type of business and its significance. The Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen (**10607 SE Main Street** in Milwaukie) is an example property, as the first Black-owned bakery in Oregon, co-operated by Dorothy Bishop Butler Hadley and her husband Hurtis Hadley. At the historic Olsen & Weygandt Building (**1421-1441 NE Broadway Drive** in Portland), Judy Kiser opened a popular lesbian bar called Judy's in 1983. It closed two years later, and A Women's Place Bookstore occupied the space until 1990. In Gresham, the Glass Butterfly store (**29 W Powell Boulevard** in Gresham) opened in 1971 as the first local retailer to dress professional women. It was housed in a former auto repair shop.²⁷²

Properties associated with businesses owned by or employing women may also be significant under Criterion B, especially if the woman is the first documented/known owner of her business type at a local, state or national level. Limitations and opportunities to ownership specific to the subject person must be considered and discussed in the nomination. Women of color and women of underrepresented groups have historically had different limitations and access to property and business ownership than white women. Comparative analysis will establish that the property best represents the contributions or work of the individual and the individual's significance within their field. Oral and community history may support this. An example is the Helen Bernhard Bakery (**1717 NE Broadway #1775** in Portland), where Bernhard started a business in 1924 as a secondary family income.

Properties associated with women in business may be eligible under Criterion D for their potential to yield important information related to women's paid labor history in Oregon. Research into the physical

²⁷² Personal communication. Email from Silvie Andrews, Museum Director, Gresham Historical Society to Izabella Nuckels, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. August 6, 2025.

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characteristics of these properties may help answer a range of relevant research questions only evident through physical material culture, such as:

- To what extent did businesses owned or started by women in Oregon spur additional opportunities for more women to enter that sector of business, especially women of color and women of underrepresented groups?
- What was the experience and level of risk for a woman opening a business in a geographic area or sector dominated by men? What is the experience and level of risk for women of color and women of underrepresented groups opening a business in a geographic area or sector where they are a minority?
- What information remains undocumented in the historic record for businesses owned by or employing women in Oregon?

Registration Requirements

To be eligible for the NRHP under this MPD, the following registration requirements apply to this property type:

- A property must represent women's ownership, authority, exclusion, or a significant or representative pattern of women's paid work identified in **Section E**. An association with routine employment of women is insufficient. Significant properties may have only employed women, actively recruited and been largely staffed by women due to the nature of the work or discriminatory hiring practices of other businesses. Comparative analysis must be used demonstrate the significance of the nominated property.
- Significance must be demonstrated through early access to business ownership, leadership roles, operation within segregated or exclusionary markets, or concentration of women workers.
- The property must retain integrity sufficient to convey its historic business function and association.

Other considerations:

- Research must document women's ownership, co-ownership (for example, some businesses may have been co-owned by a husband and wife), operation, or paid employment at the property.
- Commercial buildings will likely have undergone changes over time to support continued use and occupation. Most businesses with storefronts have changed ownership, signage, business type, or may have been vacated. Essential characteristics of the exterior must be intact. The overall design intent, including massing, roof form, fenestration, and stylistic details on the façade must be evident. Should unsympathetic replacement materials completely change a resource from its appearance during the period of significance, it no longer retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

Properties Associated with Professional Women in the Office*Description*

Properties associated with professional women in the office are properties with office space for women who were paid for "white collar" jobs, ranging from clerical work starting at the turn of the century to professions requiring advanced degrees, which became more common as access became more available to some during the mid-twentieth century and later. Clerical work includes telephone operators, administrative assistants, secretaries, stenographers, typists, and bookkeepers. Professions requiring advanced degrees will include

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lawyers, architects, and engineers, among others. This property type also includes professional women working in government office buildings in civil service roles; it does not include elected officials.

This property type will generally be a commercial or government-related building. It will range in scale from a one-story office building for a private practice to a multi-story commercial building for a group of professional workers. The woman worker(s) may have led the office or held a support role. This property type will be primarily found in medium to large towns across Oregon but may be found anywhere in the state. Properties are likely to be located in areas with other businesses, such as commercial districts, and will have varying construction dates and architectural styles.

Paid labor demonstrated by other property types, including **Properties Associated with Women in Education, Businesses/Owned by or Employing Women**, and **Properties Associated with Women in Healthcare**, may also be associated with professional women. If that work takes place at a property listed in one of the other property types, like a hospital, it will be assessed under that property type. Home-based professional offices will be assessed under **Domestic Properties Associated with Paid Women's Labor**.

Significance

This property type will typically be significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History/Women's History. It may also be eligible under Criterion A for Commerce, Education, Law, Ethnic Heritage, and/or Social History/LGBTQ History. Other areas of significance may become apparent based on the type of profession. Properties associated with professional women in the office eligible under Criterion A will generally be commercial or government-related buildings with offices for trained clerical workers or professional women, some of whom will have had access to advanced degrees. A single woman or groups of women may have worked at this property. The property may have a majority female workforce or be one of the area's major employers of women. An example property is the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Building (**2923 NE 24th Ave** in Portland), where women were recruited and hired to staff most of the switchboards.

Periods of increased participation by women in office work, such as during World War II or the late twentieth century, do not alone establish significance; eligible properties must illustrate a distinctive pattern, role, or outcome of women's paid office labor when compared to other contemporaneous office properties.

Properties associated with professional women in the office may also be significant under Criterion B, especially if the woman is the first of her profession at a state or national level. Limitations and opportunities to education and licensing specific to the subject person must be considered and discussed in the nomination. Women of color and women of underrepresented groups have historically had different limitations and access, especially to higher education, than white women. Comparative analysis will establish that the property best represents the contributions or work of the individual. Oral and community history may support this.

Properties associated with professional women in the office may also be eligible under Criterion D for their potential to yield important information related to women's paid labor history in Oregon. Research into the physical characteristics of these properties may help answer a range of relevant research questions only evident through physical material culture, such as:

- Do the physical features of the property, like floor plans, desk layouts, and filing systems, yield new information about how professional women in Oregon in this specific era organized space to accommodate both traditional administrative duties and new professional roles?
- What information can the property yield about the adoption of specialized equipment by professional women working in Oregon?

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- Does the property have unique physical material culture, like signage, building alterations, or features concealed by newer building finishes, that would not be found by studying other similar, but better-documented, offices where women worked in Oregon of the same period?
- Does the property yield new information about the experience of a professional woman or specific group of professional women in Oregon?

Registration Requirements

To be eligible for the NRHP under this MPD, the following registration requirements apply to this property type:

- An office property must represent an atypical, consequential, or illustrative aspect of women's clerical, administrative, or professional office work, rather than routine employment of women in office settings. Significance may be demonstrated through early or expanded access to office work, concentration of women workers, leadership or supervisory roles, or employment during periods of constrained opportunity. Comparative analysis is required to distinguish significant office properties from those reflecting common employment patterns.
- Interior office spaces must retain integrity where they are essential to conveying the association with women's paid labor.

Other considerations:

- Offices associated with professionals in shared office buildings are unlikely to have any external indication of the historic association with women's paid labor.
- The historic contexts in **Section E** touch on many major professions; however, relevant specializations not discussed, like chemists, must be elaborated on in the nomination, including context regarding when access and licensing were available to white, women of color, and women of underrepresented groups.
- Commercial buildings will likely have undergone changes over time to support continued use and occupation. Essential characteristics of the exterior must be intact; the overall design intent, including massing, roof form, fenestration, and stylistic details on the façade must be evident. Should unsympathetic replacement materials completely change a resource from its appearance during the period of significance, it no longer retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

Properties Associated with Women in Education*Description*

Most educational resources in Oregon have a history of employing women because most teachers in Oregon, and more broadly, were women. Women entered educational leadership positions, such as superintendents, by the late nineteenth century. By the mid-twentieth century, women were given increasing opportunities for leadership, positions in higher education, specialized positions (like counseling), and research positions. This property type will include colleges and universities, research facilities, libraries, and schools ranging in scale from modest one-room buildings to multi-building complexes. Educational properties will be found across the state of Oregon, with varying dates of construction, architectural styles, locations, settings, and other associations.

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Research may indicate that other types of properties, like domestic or religious properties, served as formal or informal places of education. When domestic properties functioned independently, they will be evaluated under **Domestic Properties Associated with Paid Women's Labor**. If a dwelling or institutional housing contributes to a collection of educational buildings, including a school, college, university, research facility, and/or library, all of the resources will be evaluated under **Properties Associated with Women in Education**. Hospital-based nursing schools will be evaluated under **Properties Associated with Women in Healthcare**, and nursing programs at colleges and universities will be evaluated under this property type.

Significance

This property type will typically be significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History/Women's History and Education. Properties may also be eligible under Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage and/or Social History/LGBTQ History. Schools may be some of the earliest properties in Oregon associated with women's paid work. However, because there are schools in most communities and most schools hired female teachers, comparative analysis must be undertaken to understand the significance of an educational property regarding women's labor history. An example property is West Gresham Elementary (now West Gresham Campus; **330 W Powell Boulevard** in Gresham), which provided one of the area's few employment opportunities for women during the Great Depression.²⁷³

Properties may also be significant under Criterion B for their association with a significant educator or educational leader (see **Registration Requirements**). An example is Caroline J. Gleason, a Roman Catholic nun, teacher, and social reformer who joined the Sisters of the Holy Names at Marylhurst, taught at St. Mary's Academy, was appointed dean at Marylhurst College and Holy Names College, earned multiple masters degrees, and was the first woman to earn a Ph.D. from her department at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Comparative analysis must be undertaken to establish the significance of any educator or educational leader in comparison to comparable individuals within similar educational institutions, educational positions, periods of significance, and geographic areas. Oral and community histories will often be valuable for researching the subject and comparative properties. In the example given, comparative analysis of Gleason's accomplishments in relation to her contemporaries and of the various properties associated with her would be necessary to evaluate Criterion B eligibility.²⁷⁴

Properties associated with women paid to work in education may be eligible under Criterion D for their potential to yield important information related to women's paid labor history in Oregon. Research into the physical characteristics of these properties may help answer a range of relevant research questions only evident through physical material culture, such as:

- Does a site where a woman or specific group of women were paid as teachers in Oregon contain physical evidence that can answer specific questions about teaching methods by innovative or trailblazing female educators?
- Does the research potential fill a gap in the understanding of the history of education, as associated with women paid to teach in Oregon, such as specialized teaching methods, education of students of color or underrepresented groups, or rural educational structures?
- Does an early campus layout or outdoor space reveal information about a woman educator's teaching philosophy?

²⁷³ Personal communication. Email from Silvie Andrews, Museum Director, Gresham Historical Society to Izabella Nuckels, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. August 6, 2025.

²⁷⁴ Robert Bunting, "Caroline Gleason (1886–1962)," in *Oregon Encyclopedia*, Oregon Historical Society, 2022.

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- Does the property yield new information about the evolution of teaching approaches by women working as educators or researchers in Oregon?

Registration Requirements

To be eligible for the NRHP under this MPD, the following registration requirements apply to this property type:

- An educational property must represent an atypical, consequential, or illustrative aspect of women's paid labor in education, rather than routine employment of women as teachers, as demonstrated through comparative analysis. Properties that are locally significant will need less comparative analysis than properties significant at the state level. Comparative analysis must include properties that are temporally, geographically, and functionally similar.
- Interior spaces associated with women's paid educational labor must retain integrity where relevant. Although some interior spaces, like classrooms and laboratories, may be renovated, primary interior spaces and circulation patterns must retain essential characteristics of the period of significance, including door openings and spatial qualities, such that integrity of feeling and association are retained.

Other considerations:

- Significance may be demonstrated through leadership roles, constrained employment contexts, specialization, differential access, or representative patterns identified in **Section E**.
- Paid educational labor undertaken by women of religious orders compensated through necessities for living is considered paid labor under this MPD.
- Although the general trend in education was for most teachers to be women, this must be verified for individual properties through employment records, school board archives, yearbooks, and other documentation, as possible.
- Women of color and women of underrepresented groups have historically had different opportunities and experiences than white women in education. Comparative analysis must take this into account when illustrating significant associations.
- Educators who made significant contributions to institutions or to the experience of women working as teachers may have moved around to different institutions during their careers. Criterion B eligibility must carefully consider the significance of the educator in comparison to others and the significance of all teaching positions in comparison to one another, and the property must be compared to others associated with that person. The nomination must illustrate that the subject property is the one most closely associated with or representative of the particular significant person's contribution to women's labor history in Oregon.
- Some properties may have historically functioned to teach women, like the first college for women in a region. Those properties may be eligible under this MPD if there is a significant association with the women who worked at the institution.
- Only a few resources in a larger university may be associated with women's paid labor because women had slow access to opportunities in higher education. Women of color and women of underrepresented groups will have had greater limitations than white women. Significance must be evaluated with regard to the limitations and opportunities afforded to the specific woman or women associated with the property during its period of significance.

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- The property must retain integrity of setting, feeling, and association such that community members would recognize it as an educational property from its period of significance.
- If a property has multiple resources, integrity assessments must consider resources that were essential to the educational programming. For example, if the property included agricultural education in a school garden, the garden must retain integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association.
- Educational buildings may be eligible under other areas of significance unrelated to the historic contexts in **Section E**, like Criterion C for Architecture. The property may also be significantly associated with other contexts, unrelated to women's paid work, that have a significant association with the property. Such significance cannot be evaluated using the framework of this MPD and must be assessed separately under an appropriate historic context and according to the guidance in National Register Bulletin 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*.

Properties Associated with Women in Healthcare*Description*

Women have always been integral to healthcare in communities, on a formal and informal basis. Nurses in Oregon were predominantly female as the profession was formalized; however, broad opportunities for women to gain higher education as doctors, surgeons, or in non-nursing medical roles did not emerge until the second half of the twentieth century. Property types associated with women in healthcare may include clinics; public and private hospitals; and related healthcare facilities like pharmacies. Healthcare resources will be found across the state of Oregon. Smaller facilities and home-based businesses will be more likely in rural or smaller communities. Buildings will range from modest one-story clinics to monumental styled multi-story buildings. Properties will have varied construction dates, architectural styles, locations, settings, and other associations.

Healthcare clinics or medical offices housed in dwellings, even partially private, will be evaluated under **Properties Associated with Women in Healthcare** (rather than **Domestic Properties Associated with Paid Women's Labor**) because they will require the specific functions of a healthcare practice. Facilities that provided healthcare within an institutional or professional medical context will be evaluated under this property type.

Significance

This property type will typically be significant under Criterion A in the areas of Social History/Women's History and Health/Medicine. Properties may also be eligible under Criterion A for Education, Ethnic Heritage and/or Social History/LGBTQ History. Healthcare facilities are essential resources of communities, but they range in scale and access. Comparative analysis must be undertaken for the evaluation of properties under Criterion A. An example property is the Biswell Clinic (**2790 Main Street** in Baker City), which was a practice run by a wife-and-husband team of licensed physicians, Drs. Flora and Roger Biswell, during a time when few female doctors owned or co-owned a private practice.

Properties may be significant under Criterion B for their association with a significant woman working in healthcare (see **Registration Requirements**). Comparative analysis must be undertaken to establish the significance of the individual in comparison to comparable individuals within similar practices and positions, periods of significance, geographic areas, and with similar educational opportunities, which may vary due to ethnicity and geography. A close study of the specific practice or specialization may be warranted to undertake comparative analysis.

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Properties associated with women paid to work in healthcare may also be significant under Criterion D for their potential to yield important information related to women's paid labor history in Oregon. Research into the physical characteristics of these properties may help answer a range of relevant research questions only evident through physical material culture, such as:

- What information does the property's structural design, layout, or materials yield about a woman or group of specific women's experience in nursing in Oregon, in a building designed per the knowledge and practice of medicine of the period and equipped with equipment of the period?
- What decisions and overall environmental factors led to women in Oregon opening clinics jointly with their husbands or in their personal dwellings?
- What was the experience of a woman working as an early doctor in a community of Oregon where there were few women in the field?
- Does the property yield new information about the evolution of healthcare work practices for women working in healthcare in Oregon?

Registration Requirements

To be eligible for the NRHP under this MPD, the following registration requirements apply to this property type:

- A healthcare property must illustrate women's constrained access, leadership, professionalization, or significant employment patterns in healthcare labor, as demonstrated through comparative analysis. Properties that are locally significant will need less comparative analysis than properties significant at the state level. Comparative analysis must include properties that are temporally, geographically, and functionally similar and that serve similar patrons.
- Interior spaces associated with women's paid labor in healthcare must retain integrity where those spaces are essential to conveying significance. These spaces will be most closely associated with women's paid labor in healthcare in Oregon and may include offices and exam rooms.

Other considerations:

- Significance may be demonstrated through professional access, leadership, institutional roles, or employment under conditions of limitation or exclusion.
- Some paid work in healthcare was undertaken by nuns or women of other religious orders who were not compensated with a personal paycheck but were compensated with necessities for living. This is included in this MPD's definition of paid labor.
- Significant properties may have been co-owned and/or -operated with a man or men. The nomination must discuss the social and legal context for this as it relates to the subject property.
- Women of color and women of underrepresented groups will have different opportunities and experiences than white women working in and gaining education to work in healthcare. Comparative analysis must take this into account when illustrating significant associations.
- For properties relating to specialized fields, like dermatology, specific access of women to education and licensing must be explained in the nomination.

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Properties Associated with Women in Industrial/Extraction/Processing Occupations*Description*

Properties associated with women in industrial occupations may be properties that manufacture or process products. This will be the least common property type associated with this MPD. The property type will include manufacturing facilities such as mills, factories, and processing plants; waterworks and energy facilities; laundries; lumberyards and mills; and canneries. Most work was labor-intensive and did not require advanced skills. Manufacturing and production facilities will be in communities and near transportation corridors and shipping posts, like railroad depots. They will often have a complex of related buildings designed for function. Buildings may be large, rectangular-plan warehouses able to contain machinery, workers, and/or storage within an uninterrupted space. Offices, storage buildings, and other associated resources may be in separate buildings. Some large-scale manufacturing processes, like mills, may be present. Most resources will be utilitarian in design. Year built dates, associations, and settings may vary. This property type will be found across the state of Oregon, likely in towns and areas with concentrated populations of workers and access to transportation routes for shipping products. Timber production will be across the state, but concentrated in Western Oregon, with some manufacturing and processing in Southern Oregon. Fish canneries will be along the coast, especially in the north, and produce canneries will primarily be near fruit orchards in the Willamette Valley.

Although some canneries and other food-related production and manufacturing facilities may be located on agricultural properties described in **Properties Associated with Women in Agriculture**, they must be evaluated under this property type because they will have resource types more closely associated with industrial, extraction, and processing activities. Offices in complexes associated with industrial, extraction, and processing will be evaluated under this property type and not **Properties Associated with Professional Women in the Office**.

Significance

This property type will typically be significant under Criterion A in the areas Social History/Women's History and Industry. Many properties will also be eligible under Criterion A for Commerce and Ethnic Heritage. Some properties may also be eligible under Criterion A for Agriculture. Due to the scale of most properties associated with this property type, only a few may have existed; there may also be few extant comparable properties due to changing technologies, processes, and industries. As a result, though comparative analysis may be brief due to lack of comparable properties. Other Western states may provide examples for context. In the case of fish canneries, a number of facilities were opened on the coast and will warrant comparative analysis with properties of temporal, geographic, and production similarities. An example property is the Diamond Cannery (**620 Columbia Street**, Hood River), which was a top local employer of women workers during its operation. The complex includes offices, a warehouse, and the cannery, all constructed during the 1920s and 1930s.²⁷⁵

Properties associated with women in industrial occupations are unlikely to also be significant under Criterion B unless the facility owner is a woman or the property is associated with a prominent female labor organizer. Survey and research did not identify any woman-owned industrial facility properties.

Properties associated with women engaged in paid work in industry and manufacturing may be eligible under Criterion D for their potential to yield important information related to women's paid labor history in Oregon.

²⁷⁵ Pratt et al., *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, 108,157.

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Research into the physical characteristics of these properties may help answer a range of relevant research questions only evident through physical material culture, such as:

- Is the property the principal source of important information for understanding the experience of a woman or specific group of women in Oregon who were transitioning back from World War II-era skilled manufacturing jobs to clerical jobs?
- What does the property indicate about how transferable the processes, and therefore skills, employed by a woman or specific group of women were between different industrial and production sectors (like fish and fruit canning)?
- What new information does the property yield about the evolution of manufacturing and industrial work practices and conditions for women working in industry, processing, and extraction sectors in Oregon?

Registration Requirements

To be eligible for the NRHP under this MPD, the following registration requirements apply to this property type:

- An industrial property must represent significant participation or employment patterns of women within industrial or processing systems.
- Comparative analysis must be undertaken to understand the rarity and survival of comparable properties.

Other considerations:

- Significance may be demonstrated through scale, concentration of women workers, wartime labor, or representative industrial patterns identified in **Section E**.
- Most industrial properties employed people of color and people from underrepresented groups. Ethnic history must be discussed in a nomination under this property type when applicable.
- Noncontributing and/or altered resources may have been added after the period of significance. Collections of historically significant resources can counterbalance concentrations of noncontributing resources if they collectively retain integrity of setting, feeling, and association. The layout of the property from the period of significance must be apparent.
- Comparative analysis of an industrial property's development with examples comparable in production, geography, layout, and function must be undertaken to inform the integrity evaluation.
- Archaeological potential may be relevant where industrial labor systems are not fully represented by extant built resources.

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G. Geographical Data

The geographical boundaries of this MPD are those of the State of Oregon.

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H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

(Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)

This MPD is part of a four-phase study of Oregon women's history initiated by Oregon Heritage, a section of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), in 2023. Phase One involved developing a methodology for the project. Phase Two resulted in a draft historic context, *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement, 1903–1990*, prepared by Northwest Vernacular, Inc. and SJM Cultural Resources. In May 2025, OPRD contracted with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec) to continue Phases Three and Four, consisting of the identification of related properties, a statewide survey, and drafting of a Multiple Property Submission (MPS) with a Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) and NHRP nominations for two individual properties.

Phase One explored the broader topic of women's history across Oregon to assess approaches for both a historic context and a feasible MPS. Upon review of secondary resources and similar contexts developed in other states, the consultants identified that women's history was too broad for the project scope. The historic context produced in Phase Two therefore narrowed its focus to the theme of paid labor, beginning in 1903, when the Oregon Legislature capped women's workdays at 10 hours in some industries, and continuing through 1990, when Barbara Roberts was elected Oregon's first woman governor. The historic context was organized chronologically and identified seven property types that may be associated with women's labor history: agriculture, commerce, domestic, education, government, healthcare, and industry/processing/extraction. The resulting historic context was used as the foundation for the contexts in **Section E**; however, the Statement of Historic Contexts in **Section E** was further developed based on properties identified and surveyed in Phases Three and Four.

Phase Three of the Oregon Women's History Project began with research to compile a list of places associated with women's labor history across the state. In Phases One and Two, consultants had identified 104 places through the historic context research and included a preliminary list of places appended to the context document. To supplement the list, OPRD and Stantec developed a list of more than 130 interested parties and subject matter experts to connect with about places and people associated with women's labor history. These contacts represented Certified Local Governments, historical societies, community groups, scholars, and other subject matter experts. The 274 entries associated with women in the *Oregon Encyclopedia* were also reviewed for additional associated places, as well as the 45 properties categorized under "Women's History Sites" in the Oregon Historic Sites Database.²⁷⁶ The types of properties identified included dwellings, schools, commercial buildings, industrial and manufacturing facilities, among others. Public outreach, in particular, yielded invaluable results and new properties that may not be apparent in the written record.

After reviewing the list of places from the Phase Two historic context and completing subsequent outreach, Stantec identified gaps that required additional research. Regional gaps were in the Mount Hood/Columbia River Gorge, Central Oregon, and Eastern Oregon regions of the state. The absence of government- and agriculture-related property types identified in the Phase Two historic context was noted. Stantec conducted additional desktop research into the local history of major cities in regions with few identified places, women in Oregon state and local government to identify additional government-related places, and groups/programs that commemorate and record agricultural history, including the Oregon Century Farm and Ranch program. The volume of properties associated with government and the long and often significant history associated with government buildings made the identification of a property with a significant association with women,

²⁷⁶ "Women," in Oregon Encyclopedia, The Oregon Historical Society, <https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/themes/women/>.

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specifically, challenging. Gaps in research and limited evidence in the written record led to a limited number of agricultural properties being identified; however, it is likely that more will be recognized, especially by members of local communities.

The research resulted in a list of 186 properties associated with the history women's paid labor in Oregon. This exploration of properties provided an understanding of the extant property types that may be associated with women's labor history in Oregon, dates of associated history that informed the period of significance for **Section E**, and themes appropriate for the context in **Section E**. Forty properties from the list were selected for reconnaissance-level survey (RLS), including photodocumentation of the exterior and an assessment of integrity. Parameters for this selection were that the forty resources must include at least three resources from each of the seven Travel Oregon regions (Central Oregon, Eastern Oregon, Mount Hood and Columbia River Gorge, Oregon Coast, Portland Region, Southern Oregon, Willamette Valley), five resources with significance in each of four periods identified in the Phase Two historic context (1903–1919, 1920–1945, 1946–1967, 1968–1990), and three resources from each of seven property types identified in the Phase Two historic context (agriculture, commerce, domestic, education, government, healthcare, industry/processing/extraction). Effort was made to document properties not already in the Oregon SHPO's Historic Sites Database.

The RLS bolstered documentation of resources associated with women's paid labor history for the Oregon Historic Sites Database. It also provided a sampling of the level of integrity that may be found in properties, especially those that have been in continuous use or have changed function, to develop **Section F**. Five of the RLS properties were selected for intensive level survey (ILS), which involved preliminary research and NRHP eligibility evaluation. Each of the ILS properties represented a different property type. This provided an opportunity to test eligibility evaluation and areas and periods of significance to inform **Section F**. The survey refined the distinction between paid and unpaid work, and it led to the following conclusions, which informed **Section F** of this MPD:

- Agricultural properties associated with women's paid work are difficult to identify and may lack archival records. Oral and community histories may benefit the identification and research of these properties. An agriculture context was developed for this MPD because it was apparent in research that there is opportunity to identify additional agricultural properties associated with the paid labor of women in Oregon.
- Government-related properties will be difficult to associate with women's paid work. Some elected positions are paid, while others are unpaid. Government-related properties also have long and complex histories. A span of years representing a significant association with women's paid work may be one of many important periods associated with the property. Therefore, Criterion A nominations for government buildings benefit from a comprehensive context specifically related to the property. A government context was therefore not included in this MPD, although political events and legal cases impacting women's labor in Oregon are addressed in the introductory section. Paid labor, as defined by this MPD, excludes elected officials, who may be paid or unpaid for their service.
- Although women's clubs are prominently associated with women's history, they typically involve unpaid work and social and philanthropic activities. Some of the results of their efforts may be eligible under this MPD, like libraries, but women's clubs are not a property type under this MPD.
- Labor organization and advocacy are closely related to women's paid labor history and influenced many of the events and trends described in the historic contexts in Section E. Properties associated with labor advocacy or unionization may be eligible under this MPD when their significance is directly tied to women's paid labor, such as organizing women workers, improving women's access to employment, wages, or working conditions, or representing women's leadership within labor

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movements. Properties whose primary significance is labor advocacy not specifically related to women's paid labor, like the 1954 Roseburg Labor Temple (**742 SE Roberts Avenue** in Roseburg), must be evaluated under an appropriate separate historic context.

- Some paid work will not have an associated physical property, and therefore, there is no resource to nominate to the NRHP. For example, Leah Hing was the first Chinese American woman to earn a pilot's license, and during World War II, Hazel Ying Lee was one of two Chinese American pilots to serve in the Women Airforce Service Pilots.²⁷⁷ The airfields associated with these women's training and active professional lives appear to no longer be extant.
- The period of significance associated with women's paid labor may not coincide with a historic property's date of construction, requiring a close study of integrity.
- Not every property associated with working women will have a significant association such that it would merit NRHP eligibility; therefore, **Section F** emphasizes the need for comparative analysis and evidence of an association with significance.
- Comparative analysis will be required for most nominations due to the large quantity of properties associated with paid women's labor across the state and the breadth of types of paid labor discussed in **Section E**.
- No archeological sites or properties with the potential to yield additional information such that it would be eligible under Criterion D were identified during this project, but an eligible site may be identified in the future. Considerations related to potential significance under Criterion D are provided in **Section F**.

The historic contexts in this MPD were developed through review of statewide survey data, archival and secondary-source research, census and occupational data, and comparative analysis of previously listed National Register properties. Results from Phase Three survey efforts, combined with supplemental research, were used to evaluate how women's paid labor is represented in the built environment and to identify gaps and limitations in existing documentation. Based on the research and survey data, the five contexts of agriculture, commerce and professional services, education, healthcare, and industry/processing/extraction were identified as encompassing most properties associated with the history of women's paid labor in Oregon. The Phase Three study showed that government-related properties and women's clubs often reflect unpaid labor, long and complex institutional histories, or multiple overlapping themes, with women's paid labor representing only one of many associations in only some cases. As a result, elected offices and women's clubs were excluded from historic contexts.

The property list and surveyed properties informed the Associated Property Types, integrity recommendations, and research questions in **Section F**. Comparative analysis of survey data demonstrated that women's paid labor is frequently one of several historical themes associated with a property, and that due to the sheer number of properties associated with women's paid labor, an associated does not always rise to the level of significance needed to justify NRHP eligibility. This finding informed registration requirements emphasizing comparative evaluation, documentation of significance, and identification of specific significant history associated with women's paid labor in Oregon. Survey review further confirmed that some forms of women's paid labor are not associated with extant physical resources, which explains the absence of certain professions from the identified property types. In addition, analysis showed that periods of women's paid labor often do not coincide with construction dates, requiring careful consideration of integrity during the period of significance.

²⁷⁷ National Park Service, Leah Hing, 2026; Delaney Brewer, Hazel Ying Lee, 2026.

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Finally, survey data and historical research demonstrated that properties associated with women's paid labor in Oregon predate 1903, the date identified in the Phase Two historic context. Limiting the MPD's study period to 1903 to 1990 would exclude documented patterns of women's labor history in Oregon identified through archival and demographic research in relation to early property and business ownership. The year 1878, when the Married Women's Property Act began allowing married women in Oregon to operate businesses and own property independent of their husbands, was selected as a more appropriate beginning for the study period. While 1859, the year Oregon was granted statehood, was also considered, research and survey did not support potentially eligible resources from this earlier period.

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Additional Documentation

(Figures, Maps, Appendices, and other materials. Please include a list of all included additional materials. Reduce file size to 300kb or less for each individual image.)

FIGURES

20 THE OREGONIAN, THURSDAY, SEPT. 23, 1943

HELP WANTED—WOMEN

18 WOMEN—Age 18 to 50. Urgently needed for light inside work in essential industry. Experience not necessary, earn while you learn, steady pleasant, clean work, regular monthly raises, time and one-half over 40 hours; extra pay for extra production; central east side location; excellent group benefit plans; cafeteria right in plant. For job details see ads below, over signature of

JANTZEN KNITTING MILLS.
NE 20th and Sandy Blvd.

40 WOMEN—18 to 50, for sewing machine. (No experience necessary.) You'll find that a "power" sewing machine is operated very much like your own electric sewing machine. A competent instructor will show you, smoothly and pleasantly how to get started right. After that, you will find it a real pleasure to sew, whether you're working on our essential civilian products or on one of the several vitally needed war products which we are turning out for the U. S. fighting forces. As explained in the ad ahead of this one, there are many very real advantages open to those who work here. Apply now at

JANTZEN KNITTING MILLS.
NE 20th and Sandy Blvd.

15 WOMEN—18 to 40, for spinning plant. (No experience necessary.) This light, interesting work will appeal particularly to younger, active women who would rather be on their feet and moving about. You learn as you go, under pleasant, competent instructors, how to spin beautifully colored yarns which are later used to make a variety of essential civilian goods and war goods. You will be working in one of America's most modern spinning plants, using efficient, up-to-the-minute equipment. The work is most important, because top quality yarns are the first essential in the manufacture of top quality textile goods. Apply now at

JANTZEN KNITTING MILLS.
NE 20th and Sandy Blvd.

15 WOMEN—18 to 50 for FABRIC LAY UP. (No experience necessary.) This light, interesting work involves "laying up" beautiful fabrics and making the pattern outlines on them. These outlines serve as a guide for our skilled cutters, who cut many thicknesses of the fabric with special, high-speed electric knives. At this work you learn as you go, under competent, courteous instructors. You should be right-handed and have good vision. You will be standing and moving about at long, well-lighted tables. This pleasant, spacious department is clean and airy.

Apply NOW at

JANTZEN KNITTING MILLS.
NE 20TH AND SANDY BLVD.

18 WOMEN, 18 to 40, for looping machine. (No experience necessary.) This light, pleasant work consists of attaching cuffs and bands to attractive Jantzen sweaters. . . . You will work comfortably seated at a special "looping" machine, which has a series of points over which you place the knitted loops of fabric. The machine, electrically operated, is then started either with the foot or the hand. This feature makes the work suitable for many physically handicapped women; the "looping" is done automatically. Generally speaking, younger women are most successful at this work. Good vision is essential. . . . The lighting and ventilation are excellent. . . . Drop in and let us show you this and the other jobs mentioned! Apply now at

JANTZEN KNITTING MILLS.
NE 20th and Sandy Blvd.

WORK AT WARDS and go places. We have immediate opening for order readers, age 16 to 60. This interesting work consists of analyzing customers' orders. You start work early and get through early. Good salary with regular increases to follow if you qualify. Apply NW 27th and Vaughn st.

MONTGOMERY WARD
NW 27th Ave. and Vaughn St.

DO YOU LIKE the tantalizing fragrance of fresh bread? We have an immediate opening in our bakery goods sales dept. Previous experience would be helpful but is not entirely necessary. Apply employment office.

FRED MEYER, INC.
633 SW 4th ave., near Morrison.

BOOKKEEPERS and accountants. Excellent opportunity to enter public accounting field. Salaries range from \$125 to \$250 per month. Must type and have knowledge of accounting. Burroughs bookkeeping machine operators preferred. Only perm. positions.

Cunocar Accounting Service
727 SE Ash St.

HAVE opening for girl 18 to 30 for both office and clean shop work. Permanent; pleasant; full time. Experience not necessary.

KARL J. KLEIN
SCHOLASTIC JEWELER
707 Journal Bldg.

BILLING clerk, also dictaphone operator and file clerk. Permanent position. Will consider beginners if potential ability evident.

Air Reduction Sales Co.
2549 NW Front ave. BR 2467.
Ask for Mr. Davis.

WAITRESSES for rotating day and evening work.
Sandwich and salad girl for evening shift.
Washington Hi students for noon-time work.

SIBERRIAN 516 SW 10th.
639 SE Morrison.

SALESGIRL IN JEWELRY STORE. Experience, not necessary. Pleasant working conditions. Apply manager, 10 A. M. to 3 P. M.

HELP WANTED—WOMEN

WOMEN up to 60 years of age—There is a job you can perform at Ward's, if you are able to pass a physical examination. We have special types of work to which older people can easily adapt themselves. Following are some of the positions you can fill: Women mail openers, file clerks, order readers, sales clerks, light stock keeping, correspondents, pkg. openers, merchandise examiners. You are needed in this mail order organization which supplies essential goods to tens of thousands of farmers, miners, lumbermen, mill workers and construction workers. Whether or not you have had office training or experience, Montgomery Ward can place you in an interesting and good paying job. You will be doing an important work because Montgomery Ward supplies the huge army of war workers. Frequent wage increases. Time and one-half over 40 hours. You will be paid while you train at Montgomery Ward's. At the end of 30 days your work record will be reviewed, and, if you are doing a good job, you will receive an increase in pay. Additional raises can be given at the end of 90 days, 6 months and 1 year as your work merits increases. Your wages can increase 14 during the first year. In addition to these wage increases you have the opportunity for promotion to a higher-paid position. No delay in securing employment.

MONTGOMERY WARD
27th and Vaughn, East Entrance
Mail order division. Direct street car service; 23d ave. car. Willamette Heights, Sellwood or Linton bus. Free parking space for employees. Hollywood district office, NE Sandy Blvd. at 42d ave.

STENOGRAPHER—We want a good, competent girl for stenographer and clerical work. Long-established lumber firm engaged in vital war work. Comfortable office, convenient location, working conditions most favorable, good salary. Please apply in person to H. C. Peterson, employment manager, Pope & Talbot, Inc., 618 NW Front ave. (McCormick Terminal).

TYPISTS—Age 18 to 45 years, needed for war work. U. S. navy contract, \$135-\$147.50 month to start.

Commercial Iron Works
Personnel office, Gate 2, foot of SW Gibbs st. 7 minutes from city center by way of Mississinipi or Powell Blvd. bus.

LUMBER STENO. and price clerk, \$175-\$225. Stenographers, \$125-\$200. Typists, \$125 up. Clerical and bookkeeper, \$175-\$210. Law steno., \$150 up. File girls, \$100-\$125. Messengers, \$100-\$110.

Business Men's Clearing House
908 Wilcox Bldg.

P. B. X. OPERATOR—Must be fast, capable, experienced and able to meet the public. Permanent position, good starting salary. Apply employment office.

FRED MEYER, INC.
633 SW 5th Ave., nr. SW 4th and Morrison.

GENERAL OFFICE WORK—Good opportunity for an inexperienced young girl who wishes a permanent position with opportunity for advancement—not a wartime job—but with an old-established firm classified as essential to the war effort. Call Mr. Leach, UN 1626.

WE NEED you in our shipping department. Wages are high. This is an essential industry. Our employees are proud of their positions. See Mr. Moriarty.

DEL MONTE MEAT CO.
303 SE Oak St.

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN optical laboratory work. Good salary while learning, steady advancement, permanent position. Also office help needed.

AMERICAN OPTICAL CO.
312 Selling Bldg.

GENERAL OFFICE GIRL—Posting, filing, some typing. Apply manager, 10 A. M. to 3 P. M.

VINE'S JEWELERS
Corner SW 3d and Washington st.

TYPIST for invoices, orders, and general office work. Permanent position with old established firm, near transportation.

Columbia Steel Casting Co.
134 NE 55th ave. EA 4117.

GAS STATION ATTENDANT—Servicing

Figure 1. Excerpt of a 1943 "Help Wanted" page from The Oregonian showing the range of occupations requesting women's labor. Source: The Oregonian.

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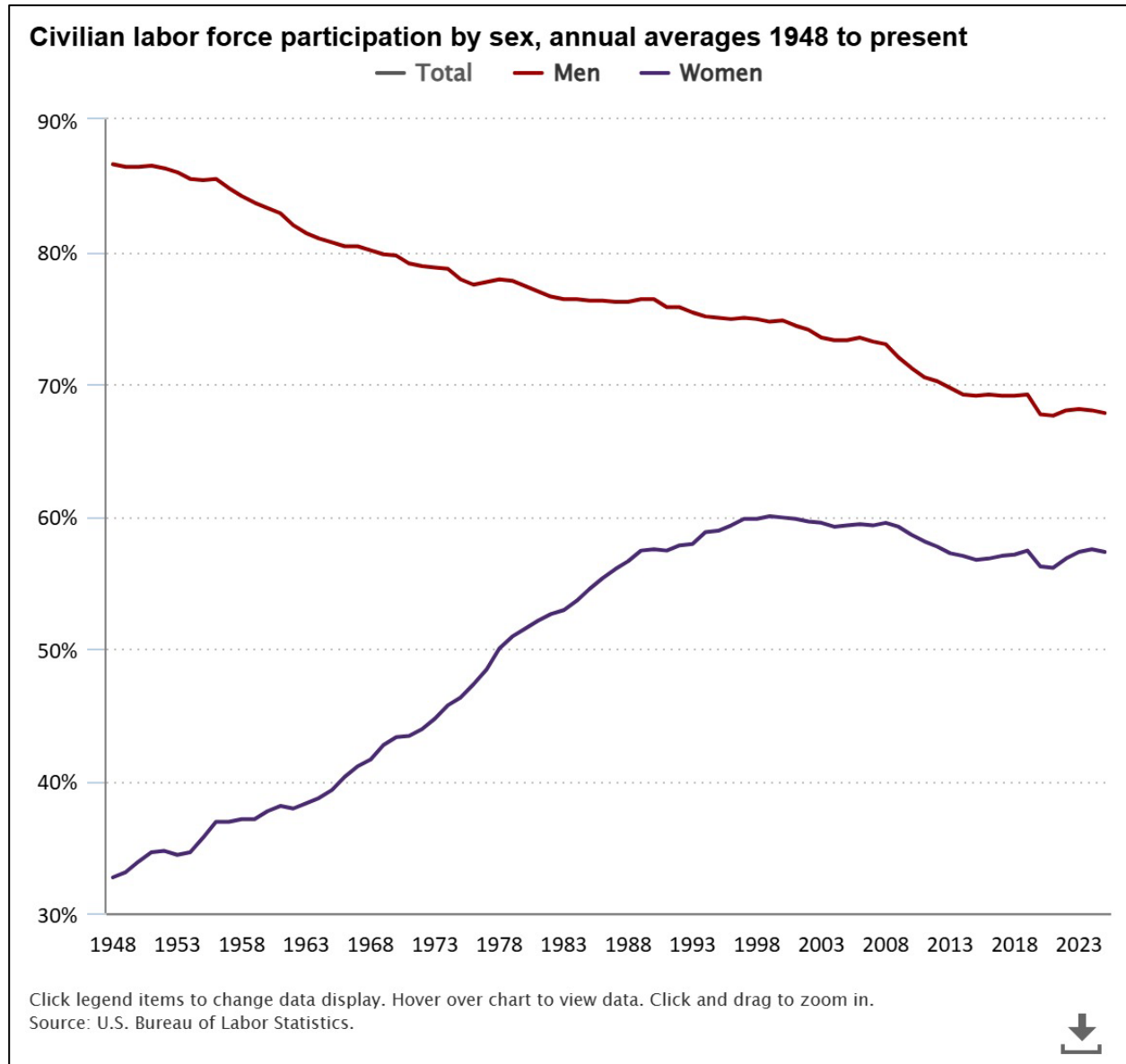


Figure 2. Women's employment dramatically increased after World War II. Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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Figure 3. Mary Maupin settled her Oakland farm in the mid-nineteenth century (1769 Maupin Road in Oakland) and it has been in continuous operation since. Extant resources include a prune drying house (above) and a 1930s barn (right). Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.



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Figure 4. The hop warehouse at 2nd and D in the Independence Historic District in Polk County is an example of a functional utilitarian agriculture-related building. Source: Independence Historic District NRHP nomination.

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Figure 5. This shelter housed a family of hop pickers in 1939 in Josephine County, Oregon, near Grants Pass. Photograph by Dorothea Lange. Source: Library of Congress, 2017773106.

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Figure 6. Wigrich Farm (5835 Wigrich Road in Independence) has two dwellings, a grain storage building, and associated cultivated fields. Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.

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Figure 7. Maria Cavasos stands with five of her nine children and one grandchild at a migrant labor camp in 1966. She and her family traveled from Texas to Oregon annually for seasonal work. Source: Oregon Historical Society, OrgLot74_B1F6_001.

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Figure 1. Eugene and Marie Kienlen purchased the Grant's Pass Brewery (505 SW G Street in Grant's Pass) in 1899. They rebuilt it after a fire that same year. Upon her husband's death, Marie operated the business until Prohibition. Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.

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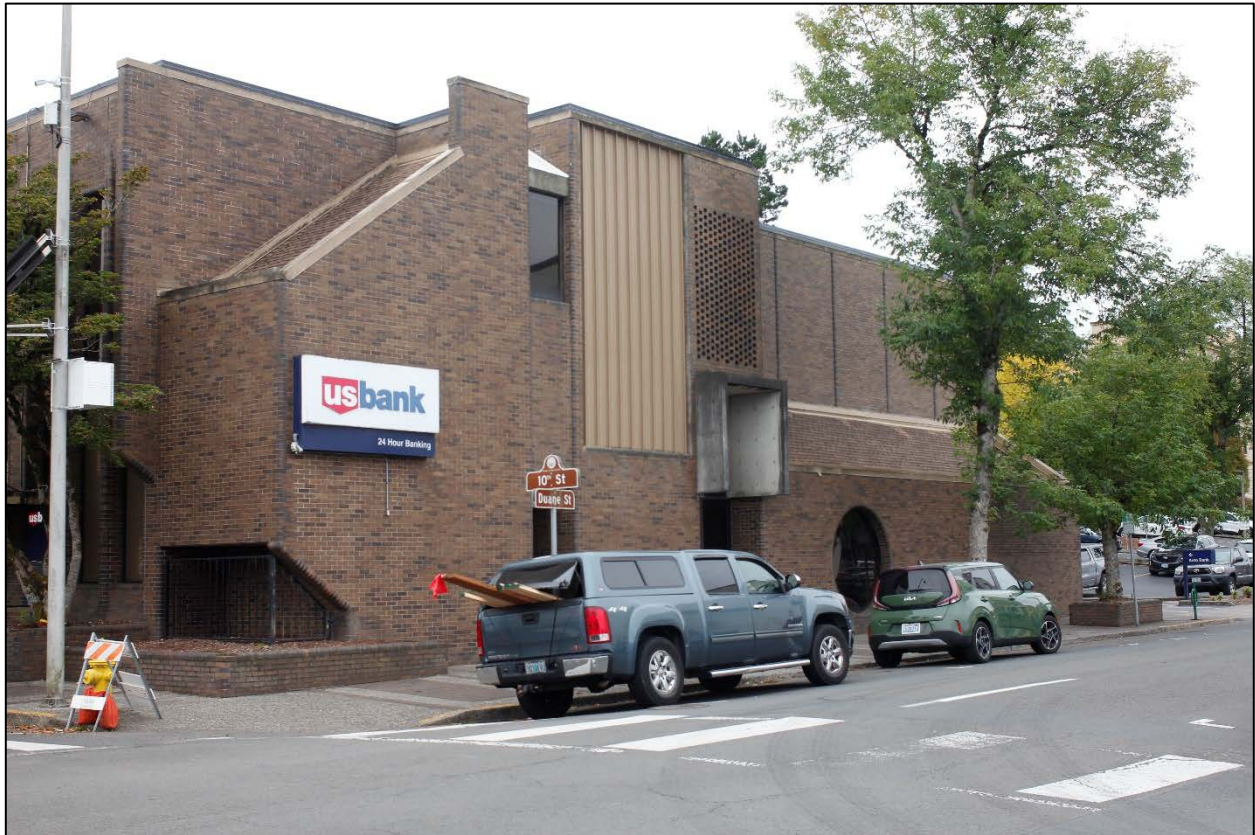


Figure 9. This bank was designed by female architect Ebba Wicks Brown (987 Duane Street in Astoria). Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.

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Figure 10. Edith Yang designed this Contemporary house (1020 NW 30th Street in Corvallis) for her family and architecture studio. Source: Oregon State Historic Preservation

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Figure 11. Helen Bernhard built this bakery building (1717 NE Broadway Street in Portland) in 1939 to house her growing business. Source. Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.

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Figure 12. The Pine Tavern (967 NW Brooks Street in Bend) opened in 1936 and was owned, operated and largely staffed by women through the late 1960s. Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.

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Figure 13. The Hadleys ran the Milwaukie Pastry Kitchen (10607 SE Main Street in Milwaukie), the first Black-owned bakery in Oregon, from 1977 to 1985. Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.

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Figure 2. In 1929, Eastern Oregon Normal School (now Inlow Hall at **8th Street and K Avenue** in La Grande) was founded to train teachers in the eastern part of the state. Source: Eastern Oregon Normal School NRHP nomination.

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Figure 3. Christie School (2507 Christie Drive in Lake Oswego) opened in the 1910s to teach women. Catholic sisters comprised the teaching staff, and they went on to found the first women's four-year college in the Pacific Northwest. Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.

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Figure 4. The Bonanza Women's Club spearheaded efforts to construct this 1934 community library, which employed a women librarian. Source: Stantec consulting Services Inc., 2025.

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Figure 17. The Broadway Building (715 SW Morrison Street in Portland) is an example of a commercial building that housed many different businesses. Several abortion clinics, including Dr. Barnett's, were in this building during the early twentieth century. Source: Broadway Building NRHP nomination.

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Figure 18. The 1918 Colonial Revival–style Multnomah County Nurse’s Quarter building (3037 SW 2nd Avenue in Portland) was one of two dormitories associated with the nurse training program. Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.

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*Figure 5. Marie Equi acquired this dwelling (1423 SW Hall Street in Portland) in 1924 and lived in it through the 1950s. She worked in many different places through her career.
Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.*

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Figure 6. Hattie Mayne delivered hundreds of babies at the Mayne Maternity Clinic (1341 NE 3rd Street in Bend) built as a dwelling and community healthcare facility, during the 1930s and 1940s. Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.

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Figure 7. The Biswell Clinic (2790 Main Street in Baker City) opened in 1950 by a husband and wife pair of physicians. Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.

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Figure 22. Women, children, and men manufactured blankets and other fabrics at the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill (260 12th Street SE in Salem) from the late nineteenth century through the 1950s. Source: Thomas Kay Woolen Mill NRHP nomination.

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Figure 23. Colonel J. Olmstead's Steam Laundry (on S. Liberty Street in Salem) in 1909.

Source: City of Salem, Oregon Historic Photograph Collections, 9A442B9B.jpg.

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Figure 24. This ca. 1904 building (349 SE 1st Street in Pendleton) housed a steam laundry in 1910 according to Sanborn fire insurance maps. Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.

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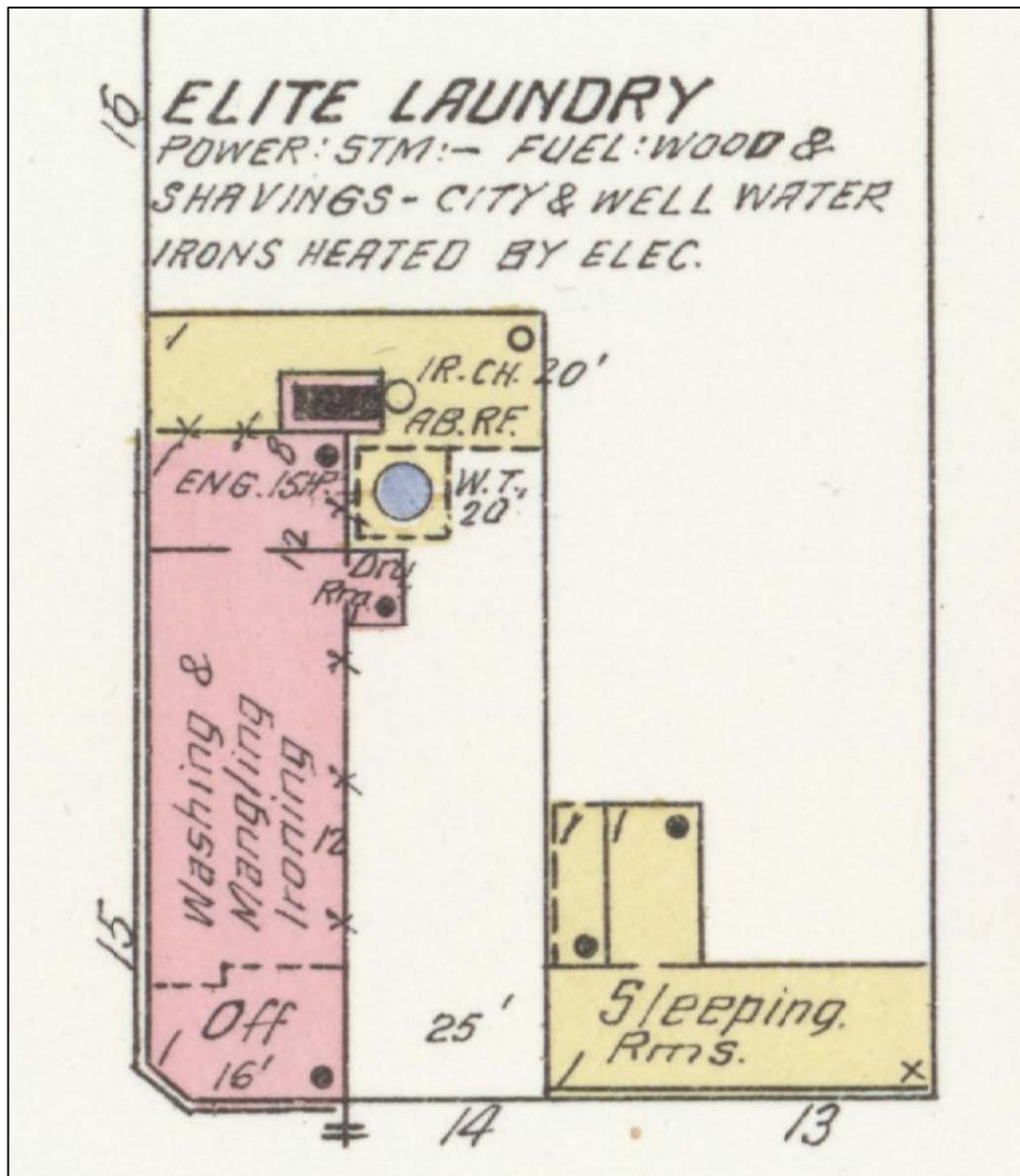


Figure 25. The 1907 Sanborn fire insurance map indicates that Elite Laundry in Grant's Pass (234 SW 5th Street in Grant's Pass) had sleeping rooms. Washing, mangling and ironing were undertaken in a one-story brick masonry building and ironing was completed in a wood-frame building appended to the side. Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps at the Library of Congress.

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Figure 26. The J. O. Hawthorn Cannery (1 9th Street in Astoria) opened in the late nineteenth century and was one of many canneries in Astoria to employ women workers. Source: Stantec Consulting Services Inc., 2025.