

Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission

November 20, 2024

Agenda Item:	7a	Information
Public Comment Allowed:	Yes	
Topic:	Heritage Division Update	
Presented by:	Matt Rippee, Deputy Director for Field and Community Services	

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office Publishes Statewide Preservation Plan

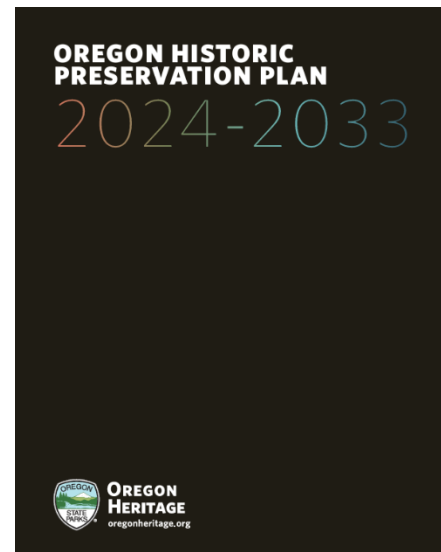
The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) released the 2024-2033 Oregon Historic Preservation Plan in September. The plan outlines a statewide strategy to preserve essential traditions, collections, and places, coordinating efforts across diverse communities and organizations throughout the state.

Key issues include:

- **Building the Heritage Community:** Strengthen preservation organizations by supporting leaders, staff, and volunteers, and fostering connections with diverse communities.
- **Preservation Planning:** Identify, evaluate, designate, protect, and plan for historic places representing Oregon's history.
- **Government Efficiency:** Enhance transparency, accountability, and support for cultural resource laws across federal, state, and local agencies.
- **Technology Tools:** Create statewide digital resources, including a public database and systems for managing statewide programs and digitizing important collections.

SHPO gathered input via an online survey, virtual meetings, and sessions on disaster resilience, diversity, and inclusion, with input from agencies, local governments, state committees, Tribes, regional organizations and the public.

The plan is available online at www.oregonheritage.org, and in various formats and languages upon request.



Oregon Heritage and Partners Document Oregon's Diverse History

Oregon Heritage is documenting the lesser-known history of the state as part of a multiyear effort. Recent entries to the National Register of Historic Places include the *Black Historic Resources in Oregon, 1788-2002* Multiple Property Submission and an updated designation for the Hannah and Eliza Gorman House in Corvallis. This project, funded by the National Park Service and Oregon Cultural Trust, is the result of years of partnership and outreach to Oregon's African American Community.



Hannah and Elizabeth Gorman House, Corvallis

The *Black Historic Resources in Oregon* document covers African American history in Oregon, from the first known Black resident to the removal of race-related language from the state's constitution. The submission included an updated nomination for the Gorman House, highlighting its archaeological significance and providing insights into the lives of Oregon's early Black women pioneers during the settlement period and during the exclusion law era.

The SHPO also released *Oregon Women's Labor History: A Historic Context Statement 1903-1990*, which is part of an effort to encourage National Register nominations for sites related to women's history. Available at www.oregonheritage.org, the document provides a draft theme context, methodology, and next steps to complete a Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) for women's labor history in Oregon.

These initiatives aim to broaden the range of cultural resources documented and preserved in Oregon, advancing a key goal of the Oregon Historic Preservation Plan.

Evan West Joins Oregon SHPO as Survey and Inventory Program Coordinator

Evan West stepped into the Survey and Inventory Coordinator position this last September. Evan brings more than a decade of public history experience to the Oregon SHPO, including several years of survey and inventory specific to Oregon. While serving as a historic preservation specialist with FEMA, Evan developed a unique set of skills for integrating historic preservation and disaster mitigation and resilience, which he looks forward to incorporating into survey practices in the future. One of his favorite contributions to public history was the development of interpretive programs at the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, the most authentic steam railroad in North America. Evan holds a master's degree in public history and historic preservation from the University of Colorado Denver. He serves on the Board of Directors for Willamette Heritage Center and Restore Oregon. When not busy volunteering with his neighborhood association, Evan can likely be found tending to his flock of ducks and chickens or spending time with his wife and their two cats.



**Evan West
Survey and Inventory
Program Coordinator**

Heritage by the Numbers – Marion County November 2024

Oregon Heritage has several programs to support communities across the state. Here is a list of participants in the county where the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission is meeting.

MentorCorps

Oregon Heritage MentorCorps is an opportunity to get support from a colleague with experience and a shoulder to cry on. Heritage organizations can apply to connect with a Mentor for nine months. The chart below shows program participation over the last three years.

2024-2025	2023-2024	2022-2023
Mentors – 2 Organizations – 1	Mentors – 2 Organizations – 2	Mentors – 2 Organizations – 2

Heritage Designations

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is a National Park Service historic designation program administered by the State Historic Preservation Office. Marion County has many properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The State Library of Oregon and the Salem Civic Center Historic District were listed in the last three years. Marion County has 807 listed properties, including several districts in Salem and large districts in Aurora, Silverton, and St Paul. These include seven bridges and 17 churches.

Oregon Historic Cemeteries

The Legislature created the historic cemetery designation in the late 1990s. A cemetery can be listed as historic if it has the burial of at least one person who died 75 years before the current date. There are 99 designated cemeteries in Marion County and 1,644 across the state.

Oregon Heritage Tradition

Oregon Heritage offers the Oregon Heritage Tradition recognizes significant community cultural events in continuous operation for 50 years or more. Recognized traditions in Marion County include the Aumsville Corn Festival, Oregon State Fair, Woodburn Fiesta Mexicana, and Great Oregon Steam-Up.

Oregon Heritage All-Star Community

Oregon Heritage offers this designation to acknowledge and support communities that value heritage as a community asset. The community must maintain 15 of 24 criteria to be considered an All-Star. The City of Salem is a recognized All-Star Community.

Preservation Partner Programs

Certified Local Government

The Certified Local Government program (CLG) is a National Park Service program managed by the State Historic Preservation Office. Local governments create a preservation program and receive access to federal pass-through funding and technical support. Aurora, Jefferson, and Salem participate in the CLG program.

Oregon Main Street

Organizations can participate in this network at various levels suitable for their capacity. Oregon Main Street supports communities in developing a thriving downtown with organizational services and technical assistance. Participating communities are eligible for the Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant.

<i>Accredited</i>	<i>Designated</i>	<i>Affiliated</i>	<i>Connected Community</i>
None	None	Salem Stayton	Aumsville Aurora Donald Gates Jefferson Silverton Turner Woodburn

Grants

Oregon Heritage offers eight primary grant programs that address historic properties, cemeteries, downtowns, museums, archaeology, veterans memorials, and other heritage-related projects. Since 2012, Marion County has received 94 \$1,714,909 in grants with a match of \$2,101,277. Awards under each grant include:

- Preserving Oregon 3 \$34,017
- Diamonds 1 \$20,000
- Historic Cemeteries 5, \$21,750
- Museum 4 \$17,772
- Certified Local Government 5, \$73,713
- Oregon Heritage 3, \$13,411
- Oregon Main Street Revitalization 2 \$400,000
- Veterans and War Memorials 1 \$44,049

Oregon Heritage Excellence Awards

Oregon Heritage recognizes excellence in heritage work every other year at the Oregon Heritage Conference. Below are awards to community members, organizations, or projects since 2007. The award has recognized a Salem Recipient 12 times and St. Paul and Auora once each.

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