

# Significant Events in the Historic Preservation Movement in Oregon

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- 1898:** The Oregon Historical Society is organized in Portland.
- 1906:** The Antiquities Act becomes the original act for historic preservation in the United States. It establishes as U.S. government policy the protection of historic, prehistoric [or pre-contact], and scientific features on lands under federal ownership or administration.
- 1909:** The 1846 residence of John McLoughlin, retired Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company Columbia District, is rescued from displacement by industrial development in Oregon City. Its relocation to a permanent site on the town's upper level is a notable achievement among the very early community preservation projects in the region.
- 1911:** The Oregon chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) is organized in Portland.
- 1916:** The National Park System Organic Act creates the National Park Service within the Department of the Interior.
- 1930:** The Oregon chapter, AIA, Committee on Old Oregon Buildings, launches a campaign to make a photographic portfolio of fifty exemplary Oregon buildings for the Pictorial Archives of Early American Architecture.
- 1933:** The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) is established in the National Park Service Branch of Plans and Design as a Depression-era research and emergency work-relief program to be administered in partnership with the AIA and the Library of Congress.
- 1935:** The Historic Sites Act declares a national policy to preserve historic and archaeological sites, buildings, and objects of national significance, and

assigns responsibility for acquiring and managing such properties to the Secretary of the Interior.

- 1935:** New legislation is signed into law as Oregon's basic antiquities code. The statutes cover permits for archaeological investigation, conditions for removal of archeological or historical material from state lands, and consequences for removal without a permit. The State of Oregon Museum of Anthropology at the University of Oregon is designated as the permanent repository of archaeological materials recovered in Oregon.
- 1938:** Archaeological investigations at Fort Rock Cave on the edge of the northern Great Basin in Lake County yield carbon-dated evidence from twisted sagebark sandals that the region has been inhabited by humans beginning at least 9,000 years ago.
- 1941:** The John McLoughlin House in Oregon City, likely the state's first historic building restoration project to have been completed (1933–1939), in part, with federal funds, is declared a National Historic Site by the Secretary of the Interior.
- 1947:** A State Parks Division is established within the Oregon State Highway Department under statutory authority.
- 1949:** The National Trust for Historic Preservation receives its Congressional charter. The private, non-profit member organization amplifies established policy set forth in the Historic Sites Act of 1935 with regard to preserving historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance.
- 1951:** The Oregon Archaeological Society (OAS) is organized by avocational archaeologists. Subsequently, in 1974, the society adopts a code of ethics and pursues technical training and collaboration with professional archeologists.
- 1953:** Jacksonville, Oregon, is brought to the attention of a wide professional audience by Marion Dean Ross's illustrated paper, "Jacksonville, An Oregon Gold-Rush Town." The one-time Jackson County seat, notably intact from the period 1850 to 1890, was declared a National Historic Landmark under National Park Service auspices within a month of passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.
- 1954:** The Pacific Section of the Society of Architectural Historians is organized at San Francisco. In 1995, the Marion Dean Ross Pacific Northwest chapter is incorporated by members in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and British Columbia.

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- 1957:** The Oregon Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), launches a series of essays on 119 historical properties under the title *Oregon Historical Landmarks*. Other activities of the DAR in Oregon include commemorative markers and restoration and maintenance of historic house museums.
- 1958:** The Century Farm Marking Program, one of the oldest agricultural heritage programs of its kind in the country, is organized as a joint project of the Oregon Historical Society and the State Department of Agriculture in anticipation of the forthcoming centenary of Oregon statehood in 1959.
- 1959:** *A Century of Architecture in Oregon 1859–1959* by Marion Dean Ross is produced in June 1959 under auspices of the Women’s Architectural League of the Oregon Chapter, AIA, to commemorate the centenary of Oregon statehood.
- 1959:** The Oregon Legislative Assembly amends existing statutes to reorganize the Highway Department’s Parks agency as the State Parks and Recreation Division. The division’s programs are financed by camping fees as well as the Highway Fund maintained by gasoline tax proceeds and vehicle license registration fees.
- 1960:** The Reservoir Salvage Act provides for the recovery and preservation of significant scientific and archeological data that might be irreparably lost or destroyed by federally constructed reservoirs, dams, and related structures.
- 1962:** The Skidmore Fountain Area is the first of Portland’s Design Zones recognized for historical and architectural significance.
- 1963:** The Portland chapter of the AIA is organized as one of several local member organizations of the institute in the state. The first comprehensive survey of historic buildings in the metropolitan area is carried out in the next several years by the Portland chapter’s Committee on Historic Buildings.
- 1963:** The Oregon Legislative Assembly expands authority given in 1925 to the State Highway Commission to acquire roadside areas for park purposes to acquire and develop areas of natural, scenic, cultural, and historical significance.
- 1965:** The Governor’s Committee on Historic Landmarks is organized by the Oregon Historical Society for the purpose of raising public awareness of important historical sites and buildings. The society’s executive director, Thomas Vaughan, leads the effort to encourage community preservation efforts.

- 1966:** The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Public Law 89-665, is signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson on October 15, 1966, setting in motion a far-reaching program of federal aid for historic preservation. The act authorizes the National Park Service to manage a match-fund partnership with the states and participating territories to conduct surveys and inventories, nominate properties to expand the National Register of Historic Places, prepare statewide comprehensive preservation plans, and pass through matching grants to local governments and proponents of qualified restoration and rehabilitation projects. The act also establishes an Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) for the purpose of working with federal agencies toward the goal of avoiding needless harm to properties on the National Register by their undertakings.
- 1966:** State-level administration of the federal-aid program for historic preservation is assigned to the Oregon State Highway Department through its Parks and Recreation Division.
- 1967:** *A Century of Portland Architecture* is published by the Oregon Historical Society. The illustrated guide is an outgrowth of comprehensive survey work completed in 1965–1966 by the Historic Buildings Committee of the Portland Chapter, AIA.
- 1968:** The Portland Chapter of the AIA is host to the National Convention of AIA. The chapter produces for the occasion *A Guide to Portland Architecture*, a well-illustrated pocket guide to one hundred and fifty noteworthy buildings and developments, both historic and contemporary, in the city’s downtown and surrounding neighborhoods.
- 1968:** The City of Portland adopts the first historic landmark preservation ordinance in Oregon affecting buildings citywide. On the West Coast, the ordinance is reputed to be second only to the Los Angeles municipal historic landmark ordinance on which it is modeled.
- 1968:** Initial steps toward development of the statewide comprehensive inventory of historic properties under provisions of the NHPA begins with State Parks and Recreation Division staff conducting research and field work, and assembling advisory lists from civic, professional, and historical organizations throughout the state.
- 1968:** The Association for Preservation Technology is formed, and its newsletter, first issued in 1969, develops as *APT Bulletin*, a quarterly academic journal on the practice and technology of historic preservation.

- 1969:** The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) declares that it is federal policy to preserve “important historic, cultural, and natural aspects” of the national heritage. Federal agencies are required to apply a systematic, interdisciplinary approach incorporating natural and social sciences in assessing the impacts on the environment of federally sponsored projects.
- 1969:** The Oregon Department of Transportation is created by legislative act to bring the state’s transportation agencies under one administrative umbrella. The State Highway Department becomes a division of the new department, and the State Parks and Recreation Division becomes a branch of the Highway Division.
- 1969:** The Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) is established by the National Park Service in complement to the Historic American Buildings Survey.
- 1970:** In September, Gov. Tom McCall appoints seven Oregonians representing requisite professional disciplines to serve on the original state review board under provisions of the NHPA.
- 1971:** In January, McCall’s appointees to the original interdisciplinary State ACHP are sworn in. During the committee’s first meeting, later in the same month, Vaughan, is elected chairman, and the state is duly authorized to begin reviewing the statewide plan for historic preservation and nominations to the National Register.
- 1971:** Executive Order No. 11593 subsequently enters into U.S. Code by amendment as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The directive ensures that even those significant resources not yet listed in the National Register, but which may be determined to be eligible, are not needlessly adversely affected by federal undertakings.
- 1971:** The National Trust for Historic Preservation establishes a Western Regional Office in San Francisco to work with state and local partnership organizations, community leaders, and public officials across eight Western states and Pacific Island territories.
- 1973:** The Oregon Land Use Act (Senate Bill 100) creates the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) and authorizes a mandatory statewide land use planning program in which protection of natural, scenic, and historic areas, and open spaces, is declared one of nineteen statewide goals (Goal 5).

- 1974:** The National Trust for Historic Preservation holds its debut National Preservation Conference in the Pacific Northwest in Portland. A concurrent event in publishing heightens recognition of the region’s efforts to promote its cultural heritage. *Space, Style and Structure: Building in Northwest America*, a two-volume collection of essays on the architecture of the region, is published by the Oregon Historical Society.
- 1974:** The Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act (AHPA) amends and greatly expands the Reservoir Salvage Act of 1960 by requiring federal agencies to provide for recovery and preservation of significant scientific, prehistoric [or pre-contact], historic, and archeological materials and data that might be lost or destroyed by any federally sponsored activity causing “alteration of the terrain.”
- 1974:** The Association of Oregon Archaeologists organizes for the purpose of providing a forum for information sharing and advocacy among the growing number of professional archeologists in the state who are university faculty members or public agency staff or contractors active in reconnaissance and salvage archeology.
- 1975:** The Historic Property Tax Law of 1975, codified as ORS 358.475 *et seq.*, provides for special assessment of properties listed on the National Register by operating as a fifteen-year freeze of the level of property tax paid by commercial or residential property owners for investing in approved preservation projects. Oregon’s special assessment program, scheduled to sunset after ten years, is recognized as one of the first and most successful incentives of its kind in the nation in terms of the dollar value of rehabilitation it leveraged. Senate Bill 279, passed in 1983, extended the program to 1993.
- 1976:** By amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act, the ACHP is removed from the National Park Service and reconstituted as an independent agency of the federal government with continuing authority to review and comment on federally sponsored undertakings.
- 1976:** The Tax Reform Act of 1976 is passed by Congress as the initial federal tax credit program that aligned with incentives called for by preservationists in 1966. For the first time, credit for investment in rehabilitation of eligible income-producing historic properties is placed on an equal footing with new construction for developers.
- 1976:** *The Grand Era of Cast-Iron Architecture in Portland* by William John Hawkins, III, is published as an illustrated account of the cast-iron-fronted buildings in

the Italianate style that arose through the nineteenth century in the region's dominant commercial center. It documents the state's largest and most cohesive collection of architectural iron buildings.

- 1977:** The Historic Preservation Fund is established by congressional act of the previous year to advance the work of the National Historic Preservation Act. Its revenue source is proceeds from Outer Continental Shelf oil leases. Most of the appropriated funds are allocated as pass-through grants to the states, Certified Local Governments, and Tribal governments.
- 1977:** The National Trust for Historic Preservation launches a three-year demonstration project that becomes the basis for the Trust's model Main Street Approach to revitalization of America's historic downtowns.
- 1977:** The Oregon State Public Buildings Cooperative Use Act is signed into law and becomes the first legislation of its kind at the state level in the country. Modeled after the federal counterpart enacted in 1976, it declares that the state will investigate the feasibility of adapting historic properties for use by the state when additional space is needed for the state's varied functions.
- 1977:** The Historic Preservation League of Oregon is incorporated as a statewide, non-profit educational and advocacy organization. The league's first Annual Governor's Conference on Historic Preservation is held in Jacksonville in the same year. The organization changes its corporate name to Restore Oregon in 2013.
- 1978:** At the peak of federal funding of historic preservation efforts spurred by celebration of the Bicentennial of American Independence, Oregon's record apportionment of pass-through grants under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act reaches a high of \$860,041 before the onset of recession and subsequent congressional budget-cutting reduces the state's apportionment to zero in 1981.
- 1979:** The Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) establishes requirements for protecting archeological resources on federal and Tribal lands, and promotes increased coordination between federal land managers and the professional archeological community.
- 1979:** The Oregon Legislature advances the State Parks and Recreation agency to full division status within the Department of Transportation. No longer part of the Highway organization, the parks administrator, as State Historic Preservation Officer, reports directly to the Transportation Commission.

- 1980:** Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, added by amendment, requires federal agencies to take more direct responsibility for protecting and managing cultural resources under their control. The agencies designate Federal Historic Preservation Officers (FHPOs) as counterparts to State Historic Preservation Officers. Amendments of 1980 also provide a process for certifying qualified local units of government, known as the Certified Local Government (CLG) program, for a more direct role in nominating properties to the National Register and participating in the Section 106 process for determining National Register eligibility of properties likely to be affected by federal undertakings.
- 1980:** Oregon voters approve a constitutional amendment restricting use of the gasoline tax-supported Highway Fund for highway construction and maintenance exclusively. Funding for programs of the State Parks and Recreation Division is shifted to the General Fund.
- 1980:** An interdisciplinary graduate degree program in historic preservation, the first to be established on the West Coast, is established at the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts. Drawing students from across the country, the program achieves recognition as it prepares emerging professionals to enter varied fields of cultural resource management.
- 1981:** The Economic Recovery Tax Act supersedes the Tax Reform Act of 1976 and provides a favorable new schedule of investment tax credits for rehabilitation of eligible historic buildings provided that project plans meet the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation.
- 1981:** An Interim Legislative Task Force is created by Senate Joint Resolution 18 for the purpose of formulating a cohesive state policy on the preservation of properties of special significance and recommending legislation to implement the policy to the 1983 Legislative Assembly.
- 1983:** Bills are passed by the 1983 Legislative Assembly and signed into law as the state's revised historic preservation and archeological code. Authorities and duties of the State Historic Preservation Officer and Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation are delineated in Oregon statute for the first time. The special assessment program for historic properties is reauthorized for a period of ten years.
- 1983:** *Oregon Style: Architecture 1840 to the 1950s* by Rosalind Clark is financed in part with federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior made avail-

able by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act. Published as an illustrated guide to architectural styles for Oregonians, it is consistent with stylistic classifications adopted by the National Register and is widely applied by those conducting community surveys and registering landmarks.

- 1984:** *Last of the Handmade Buildings: Glazed Terra Cotta in Downtown Portland* by Virginia Guest Ferriday brings attention to a significant concentration of terra cotta-clad buildings that distinguishes the metropolitan commercial center.
- 1986:** The Tax Reform Act of 1986 reduces the schedule of economic incentives for rehabilitating historic properties previously provided under the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981. Participation of developers drops off accordingly.
- 1987:** The Bosco-Milligan Foundation is organized in Portland as a non-profit corporation for the purpose of housing and exhibiting a distinguished collection of artifacts relating to historic architecture and building arts of the city and region. The foundation's Architectural Heritage Center is opened in 2005 in the cast-iron-fronted West's Block Building at 701 SE Grand Avenue as a resource center for historic preservation advocacy.
- 1990:** The bill passed by the Oregon Legislature in 1989 creating the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), an independent department of state, is effective January 1. Along with its core mission to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational sites for public use, OPRD retains its statutory charge to administer the federal-aid program for historic preservation in Oregon through the State Historic Preservation Office.
- 1990:** The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) is enacted to secure the rights of Tribal members and Native American and Native Hawaiian organizations to cultural materials, including human remains, and funerary, sacred, and other cultural objects.
- 1992:** Amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act authorize a more direct role for Native Americans and Native Hawaiians in federal and state preservation programs. Designated Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) are empowered to enter into agreements concerning protection of resources in consultation with State and Federal Historic Preservation Officers.

- 1993:** The Oregon Legislative Assembly of 1993 extends prohibition of unlawful conduct with regard to archeological sites and objects to private property as well as public lands, and vests the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and its State Historic Preservation Office with primary authority to issue permits for archeological investigation.
- 1995:** The Oregon Legislature establishes in statute the Oregon Heritage Commission (OHC), composed of gubernatorial appointees representing the state's geographic areas and cultural diversity. Other, ex-officio, members represent the state's cultural institutions and departments. The OHC is a coordinating body for public and private organizations in the cause of heritage program development.
- 1995:** After a legislative bill to extend provisions of the historic property tax law a second time with conditions was vetoed in 1993, Oregon Senate Bill 588 is passed to reestablish a state property tax deferral incentive for investment in the rehabilitation of National Register properties.
- 1995:** The University of Oregon graduate program in Historic Preservation is enhanced by a summer field school for hands-on technical training and project planning. Now known as the Pacific Northwest Field School, the initiative has persisted through collaborative partnerships as new training sites are selected around the region each year.
- 1996:** Statewide land use planning program rules are revised in accord with legislative action of 1995. Local jurisdictions are no longer required to maintain historic resource inventories but are encouraged to do so. New designations of Goal 5 historic resources requiring consideration in cases of land-use conflict are contingent on consent of the land owner.
- 1998:** Executive Order 13072, signed by President Bill Clinton in February 1998, authorizes "Save America's Treasures," an initiative to award matching grants to communities for preserving the nation's cultural heritage in architecture, works of art, documents, and museum collections.
- 1998:** Oregon voters approve a constitutional amendment allowing proceeds from the Oregon Lottery to be allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation for funding natural and cultural resource development.
- 1999:** The Association for Preservation Technology-Northwest is organized as a regional chapter of the APT embracing members in Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and British Columbia.

- 2001:** The Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) is established by the National Park Service in complement to the Historic American Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record.
- 2001:** The Oregon Legislative Assembly establishes in the State Treasury, effective January 1, 2002, a Historic Preservation Revolving Loan Fund for the purpose of providing loans for historic property rehabilitation projects. No appropriation is made to fund the initiative.
- 2001:** The Oregon Cultural Trust is established by enactment of House Bill 2923. The innovative program, based on a charitable cultural tax credit, goes into effect December 1, 2002, and the response is immediate. Grants in support of the humanities, heritage preservation, and the arts are distributed annually to county and Tribal pass-through entities, and the Trust's five statewide partners: Oregon Arts Commission, Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Humanities, Oregon Historical Society, and the State Historic Preservation Office. In 2013, the program is reauthorized to extend to 2020.
- 2002:** *Architects of Oregon: A Biographical Dictionary of Architects Deceased, 19th and 20th Centuries*, compiled by Richard E. Ritz, is brought to print posthumously by William J. Hawkins, III, with the assistance of other contributors.
- 2005:** The National Trust for Historic Preservation returns to Portland, September 27 to October 2, for its third National Preservation Conference held in the Pacific Northwest after those in Portland (1974) and Seattle (1985).
- 2007:** The Oregon Legislature enacts Senate Bill 416 to allow a second fifteen-year period of benefit for commercial properties under the revived special assessment program. A task force is created to make recommendations concerning reauthorization of the program before the scheduled sunset.
- 2007:** The Oregon Legislative Assembly approves "CHAMP" (Culture, Heritage, Art, Movies, Preservation), a public investment package in support of historic preservation and other cultural enterprises contributing to the state's economic vitality, including revitalization of historic community centers under the Oregon Main Street Program.

- 2009:** Oregon Senate Bill 192 authorizes renewal of the special assessment program for National Register properties with most of the requirements set forth the 1995 law, as amended in 2007, retained. Notably, however, the application fee is reduced, and a minimum of 10 percent of the property's real market value must be invested in the approved project preservation plan within the first five years of the ten-year benefit period.
- 2009:** Clatsop Community College in Astoria establishes a structured, state-approved Historic Preservation and Restoration Certificate and Associate of Applied Science degree program. First-year training is focused on skilled construction trades such as masonry, carpentry, plastering, and glazier's craft. Second-year course work includes preservation principles and planning, and executing a preservation project.
- 2015:** The Oregon Legislative Assembly enacts a bill to establish a distinct Oregon Main Street Revitalization Grant Program Fund with in the State Treasury and authorizes the State Historic Preservation Officer to provide assistance, training, and technical services to communities seeking to "strengthen, preserve, and revitalize their historic downtown commercial districts."
- 2016:** The University of Oregon Master of Science degree program in Historic Preservation offered by the School of Architecture and Allied Arts on the Eugene campus since 1980 receives approval of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission to relocate to Portland.
- 2016:** Having been petitioned to review a Court of Appeals decision in the case of *Lake Oswego Preservation Society vs. City of Lake Oswego*, the Oregon State Supreme Court, on August 4, hands down a unanimous opinion that the right to remove a historic designation under statewide land-use planning rules requiring owner consent "applies only to those owners who held title when a local historic designation was first imposed and not to those whose property was already designated at the time they acquired it." The consequential opinion upholds the earlier finding of the Land Use Board of Appeals and establishes that planning Goal 5 remains valid as a historic preservation measure under ORS 197.773(3).