

ASHP NEWS

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Students Work on Historic Columbia River Highway

by Lynn Josse

On Saturday, February 12, almost 20 University of Oregon Historic Preservation and Landscape Architecture students tramped parts of Oregon's Historic Columbia River Highway as part of a two-phase contract with the Oregon Department of Transportation. The 200-mile historic highway was built between 1912 and about 1920 in what is today the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area.

Phase One of the ODOT contract with the U of O's Landscape Architecture Department consists of documenting and evaluating almost one-and-one-half miles of the abandoned highway near the town of Cascade Locks. This segment was once one of the most famous stretches of the road, its Tooth Rock and Eagle Creek Bridge well-known landmarks. Today Eagle Creek Bridge remains in good condition, but the most famous part of Tooth Rock no longer exists, and sections of the viaduct and pavement are crumbling away. Professor Robert Melnick's Landscape Preservation class spent a full day completing on-site documentation. The final report, to be finished in March, will include a history of the Highway and historic context of the segment in question, maps and photographic documentation of its current condition, and evaluation and recommendations for treatment.

Phase Two of the ODOT contract will be undertaken as part of a Landscape Architecture studio in *(please see Highway, page 4)*



The UofO Preservation team standing in front of the Overlook Building, from left to right: Alain Rebeyrol, Ed Yarbrough, Dave Pinyerd, George Bleekman, Jonathan Smith and Matt Janssen.

U of O Preservation Team Awarded Contract with Forest Service

by George Bleekman III

Earlier this winter a group of six architecture and historic preservation students contracted with the U.S. Department of Forestry to complete a set of both measured and working drawings of the historic Bonneville Dam Overlook Building, located in the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. The overlook building, completed in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, is situated on a promitory overlooking the Columbia River and Bonneville Dam. The building is also part of the Eagle Creek Recreation Area and is located along the historic Columbia

River Highway.

The Overlook Building was designed in the Cascadian style by the Oregon architectural firm of Gifford & Turner, and features stone pillars, carved wooden trusses and log beams. While researching the building, the team discovered that the cast iron hardware on the building was crafted in Zig Zag, Oregon, by the same blacksmiths who did the ironwork for the Timberline Lodge on Mt. Hood. In fact, the ornamental light fixtures are nearly identical in both buildings.

The contract is the first of what should be many between the Forest Service and the UofO Preservation Program, thanks to the efforts of Professor Don Peting,

(please see contract, page 4)

The President Notes...

by Lisa Teresi-Burcham

"Price tag high for preserving past"

"...historic designation will obscure the debate over what ought to have been a dollars-and-cents decision."

"Historic structures usually cost more to renovate than modern buildings or new construction..."

During the past few weeks, preservationists in our neck of the woods have flinched at the appearance of any news item related to historic preservation. Media sound bites and headlines are effecting a perception that historic preservation is costly...a financial extravagance that only those not suffering from the economic leanness of the past decade can hope to afford. Be it the televised opinion of a large public institution or the published view of a single private property owner, the media-generated implication is that rehabilitating a historic property, ...let alone just designating it as such... is an action which economically bankrupts and socially constrains.

It's a lie! A preservation myth.

In reality, preservation is an effective economic tool which has proven successful in numerous rehabilitation projects in this region. The Tiffany Building, the Lincoln School, the Campbell House, the Farmers Union (Down-to-Earth) were all local rehabilitation projects whose historic designation provided them an economic savings through the Investment Tax Credit and/or Special Assessment tax freeze programs.

Additionally, in Springfield and Eugene community development programs exist which provide low-interest loans to residents of both historic and low-income properties (often located in older historic neighborhoods) for rehabilitation work.

Another myth perpetuated by opponents of historic designation is that designation either requires the property owner to develop a stringent "restoration" program or prevents the property owner from altering, adding-on or making improvements to the building and grounds. Not so! Perhaps, it is here that a clarification should be made between restoration and rehabilitation.

"Restoration" of a historic structure is usually limited to properties intended for use as historic house museums. It is defined as "the act or process of accurately recovering the form and details of a property and its setting as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of later work or by the replacement of missing earlier work."¹

Today's property owner is unlikely to experience this kind of extensive restoration work since modern needs such as indoor plumbing, electrical wiring, disabled accessibility, interior space conversion, and heating and air-conditioning require alterations to the historic fabric of older buildings. In this instance the more accurate term "rehabilitation" is used to define "the act or process of returning a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration which makes possible an efficient contemporary use while preserving those portions or features of the property which are significant to its historical, architectural or cultural values."²

In order for rehabilitation projects to qualify for economic incentive programs, the property must

be a certified historic property designated as such on either a local or national level (depending upon the program utilized) and rehabilitation work must follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards (or equivalent local standards) for rehabilitation. These standards insure that retaining, repairing and replacing the historic character-defining features of a historic property will be done in such a manner as to protect the historical integrity of the property.

Historic preservation is a conserver, rather than an over-consumer, of scarce public resources... "To make a new brick today to build a building on a site

(please see President, page 4)

The Editor Notes

by George Bleekman III

In this issue you might notice that there are a few articles dealing with various departments of A&UM contracting with state and federal agencies for preservation work. Not only is this an excellent opportunity for both students in our preservation program and the contracted agencies, but it is also an indicator of the future of our preservation program. Under the leadership of Don Peting, (still our "acting director,") the program is moving forward in a very positive direction.

We will have ten new students joining us next fall, the largest group ever admitted. This increased enrollment will allow for such partnerships to continue, for the benefit of all involved. Although we serve an internship as part of our educational process, it is a singular experience, albeit a very valuable one. With the addition of these partnerships, we are able to use them to complement our internships. It will certainly help in future job searches!

Free Database Tutorial and Workshops

The History Computerization Project now offers free workshops and a printed tutorial on the use of computer database management for historical research, writing, and cataloging. Those unable to attend the workshops can still obtain the 80-page workshop tutorial by mail. The workshops and tutorial give organizations and researchers a chance to see how easy it can be to build an historical database, at no cost or obligation. The project, sponsored by the Regional History Center of the University of Southern California and the Los Angeles City Historical Society, is building a Regional History Information Network through which researchers and repositories can exchange information. The Los Angeles Bibliography Project has created a database of source materials and a directory of historical repositories. Both projects employ the History Database program, running on IBM PC compatible computers. The computer classroom includes 10 IBM PCs connected to a shared database. The course textbook, *Database Design: Applications of Library Cataloging Techniques*, by David L. Clark, is published by the TAB division of McGraw-Hill. For a current workshop schedule and a free copy of the Tutorial contact: History Computerization Project, 24851 Piuma Road, Malibu, California 90265. Phone (818) HISTORY, (818) 591-9371.

(from contract, page 1)

acting head of the H.P. Program, and John Platz, of the Forest Service. The link between the Preservation Program and the Forest Service will provide students the chance to work on paid preservation projects, and in turn, provide the Forest Service with high quality finished products.

Once the team finishes the measured and working drawings, as well as a historic structures report and restoration guidelines, the documentation will be used as part of a restoration workshop later this summer.

The students making up the team are George Bleekman III, Matt Janssen, Dave Pinyerd, Alain Rebeyrol, Jonathan Smith, and Ed Yarbrough. After completing their contract with the Forest Service, the team intends to enter a set of the measured drawings in the Peterson Competition.

(from Highway, page 1)

Spring quarter. Students will plan alternatives for routing a proposed bike path through the segment. A number of terrain features pose considerable design challenges: it is impassable in several places and substantially deteriorated in others. In at least one spot the highway has literally slid off the hillside and disappears. The difficulty of the task is increased by the steepness of the terrain and the proximity of the railroad and interstate.

Recent attention to the historic importance of transportation corridors makes this project a particularly timely one. Hopefully, the classes' findings will be able to make a real contribution to the revitalization of the highway. For both the class and studio, it is a rare opportunity to work on a significant landscape adaptive reuse challenge.

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where there is already a building standing steals from two generations. It steals from the generation that built the brick originally by throwing away their asset before its work is done, and it steals from a future generation by using increasingly scarce natural resources today that should have been saved for tomorrow."³

Historic preservation is an

investor of private capital in projects which benefit public good... By rehabilitating the historic McMorran and Washburne Department St (the Tiffany Building) the developer revitalized a high-profile corner in downtown Eugene (location, location, location!) which attracted both commercial enterprises and residents to this National Register property.

Historic Preservation makes sense... it makes dollars and cents... as testified to by zero vacancy rates at the Tiffany Building... it also saves dollars and cents... as exemplified in the tax credits which made the Farmers' Union (Down-to-Earth) rehabilitation an economically do-able project.

"In economics, it is the differentiated product that commands a monetary premium. It is the built environment that expresses, perhaps better than anything else, a community's differentiation, diversity, identity, and individuality. As differentiated product commands a premium, there is an economic strength in an unduplicated built environment."⁴

Diversity, identity, individuality... Rather than pitting these preservation values against dollars-and-cents, we should champion the reuse of a past generation's building fabric, the environmental and energy savings associated with it and the economic incentives currently available, to insure the continued economic, social and cultural viability of these historic properties to a new generation.

1. William Murtagh, *Keeping Time: The History and Theory of Preservation in America*. New York: Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., 1990, 217.

2. *Ibid.*, 216.

3. Donovan Rypkema, *The Economics of Rehabilitation*, Information Series (Washington D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1991), 21.

4. *Ibid.*

PRESERVATION ACTIVITIES UPDATE

Conferences

The first conference on Reclaiming Women's History Through Historic Preservation will be held June 17-19 at Bryn Mawr College. Contact: Gayle Samuels, Reclaiming Women's History Through Historic Preservation, WOMENS WAY, P.O. Box 53454, Philadelphia, PA 19105-3454; (215) 527-4470.

The Museum Association of Arizona will hold its annual conference March 20-22 in Phoenix. Contact: Pueblo Grande Museum and Cultural Park, 4619 East Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034-1909; (602) 495-0901.

Workshops

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is sponsoring a one-week Preservation Leadership Training Institute. Offered June 4-11 in Saratoga Springs, NY, it is tailored to respond to the needs of local preservation organizations. Deadline: March 15. Fee: \$3⁰⁰

The GAIA Project, sponsored by CRATerre-EAG, ICCROM, and ICOMOS, is holding the 4th International Course on the preservation of earthen architectural heritage in Grenoble, September 19-October 7, 1994. The three-week long program develops a specific methodology for the preservation of earthen architecture based upon general principals of preservation practice. Deadline: March 31. Fee: 6 500 FF. Contact: CRATerre-EAG, B.P. 2636, F-38036 Grenoble Cedex 2, France; (33) 76 40 14 39.

The graduate program in Historic Preservation at the University of Maryland, College Park, in cooperation with HABS/HAER, is offering a four-day training course on Architectural and Engineering Photography of Historic Structures, May 23-26. Contact: Mary Corbin Sies, Department of American Studies, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742; (301) 405-1361.

Internships

Preservation Action is offering two full-time internships this summer. The internships are for a minimum of six weeks, though eight weeks is preferred, usually beginning in early June. Interns can expect to be

introduced to every facet of Preservation Action's work as a grassroots lobby and a non-profit organization. Stipend: \$225 per week. Contact: John Evans, 1350 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Suite 401, Washington, D.C. 20036; (202) 659-0915.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation is offering a summer intern program to provide practical work experience for students by assisting at a National Trust property in carrying out its educational mission. Training will be provided in a wide variety of museum operations to support preservation and interpretation of the home and studio. Deadline: April 15. Contact: Nancy Firlik-Scholten, The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation, 931 Chicago Avenue, Oak Park, IL 60302.

The Historic Preservation Management Division of the Kansas City Planning and Development Department is offering an internship for this summer. HPMD serves as the staff to the Landmarks Commission as well as being a division of the City Planning and Development Department. It's a ten-week internship with flexible start and finish dates. Salary flexible based on education and experience. Deadline: April 1. Contact: Elizabeth Rosin, Historic Preservation Management Division, City Planning and Development Department, 26th Floor East, City Hall, Kansas City, MO 64106; (816) 274-2555.

The Historic Lexington Foundation and Washington and Lee University are sponsoring graduate fellowships at the Stonewall Jackson House. The fellowships are designed to foster research on the life and times of T.J. "Stonewall" Jackson and to enhance the interpretation of the Stonewall Jackson House through research, documentation of collections, exhibit preparation, and development of educational programs. Stipend: \$3000 for three months. Deadline: March 15. Contact: The Director, Stonewall Jackson House, 8 East Washington Street, Lexington, VA 24450; (703) 463-2552.

Adirondack Architectural Heritage is offering a summer internship at Camp Santanoni situated on Newcomb Lake in the Adirondack Mountains of New York. The internship consists of educating the public to Santanoni's architectural and historical significance. The internship runs from June 27-September 5. A \$1200 stipend plus food

and living expenses provided. Deadline: April 15. Contact: Dr. Howard Kirschenbaum, Adirondack Architectural Heritage, Box 159, Raquette Lake, NY 13436; (315) 345-5832.

Scholarships

Southhold Restorations, Inc. has established the Joan Burmeister Romine Scholarship Fund to assist historic preservation students. Deadline: March 15. Contact: Barbara Steele, 322 West Washington, South Bend, IN 46601; (219) 234-3441.

Competitions

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the National Park Service and The Athenaeum of Philadelphia announce the 1994 Charles E. Peterson Prize, awarded for the best sets of measured drawings prepared to HABS standards and donated to HABS by students. Top prize \$2000. Deadline: June 30. Contact: Brian L. Cary, Charles E. Peterson Prize, Historic American Buildings Survey, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

Call for Papers

The Eighth Conference on Research and Resource Management in Parks and on Public Lands is issuing a call for papers on Sustainable Society and Protected Areas. The conference is to be held April 17-21, 1995 in Portland, OR. Abstracts required by May 15. Contact: The George Wright Society, P.O. Box 65, Hancock, MI 49930-0065; (906) 487-9722.

Organizations

The Historic Preservation League of Oregon is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, protection, and preservation of Oregon's historic and cultural resources. Membership in the HPLO entitles you to four issues of the HPLO Newsletter, information on all HPLO lecture events, activities, and the annual conference. For specific information, contact HPLO, P.O. Box 40053, Portland, OR 97240; (503) 243-1923.

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the News!**