

# **A Woman's Place is in the Register: Advancing Women's Stories in Oregon's Historic Sites**

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## Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	1
Table of Contents	2
List of Figures	4
List of Tables	8
<b>CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>9</b>
Why women’s history sites? Why now?	14
Scope & Methodology	16
Scope	16
Methodology	18
Initiative Evaluation Criteria	20
Purpose & Intended Audience	22
Existing Literature	24
<b>CHAPTER 2: CONTEXT OF GENDER IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION</b>	<b>27</b>
Federal Preservation Tools in Context	28
National Historic Preservation Act of 1966	28
“The Gender Debate”: Gender in the Context of History & Historic Preservation	33
Women in History	33
Women & Early Preservation Efforts in the Nineteenth and early-Twentieth Century	38
The National Register of Historic Places and the Gender Debate (pre-1990s)	39
The Gender Debate Shifts: Gender as an Area of Significance (the 1990s)	40

Underrepresented Communities (the 2000s — Present)	41
Chronology of Women in Historic Preservation in the United States	42
<b>CHAPTER 3: EVALUATION OF STATEWIDE WOMEN’S HISTORY SITES INITIATIVES</b>	<b>50</b>
The Oregon Heritage Women’s History Project in Context	51
Evaluation of the Women’s History Sites Group	53
Typologies	53
Women’s History Significance	56
Women’s History Sites Initiatives in Other States	62
Initiative Evaluation Criteria	62
Results	64
Model States	66
<b>CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING WOMEN’S HISTORY SITES IN OREGON</b>	<b>78</b>
Recommendations	79
<b>CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION</b>	<b>110</b>
Lessons Learned & Moving Forward	111
Bibliography	113
Appendix	127
SHPO Women’s History Initiatives by State	127

## List of Figures

<i>Figure</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and Mount Vernon. Source: Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, Washington.org.....	10
2. Urban renewal's reach on Pittsburgh's "slums." Source: Pittsburgh Press.....	30
3. Postcard, ca. 1912, courtesy of the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum. Source: National Museum of American History.....	34
4. A 1962 textbook used in American schools with explicit gender bias. Source: UNESCO/BBC.....	35
5. Four women work in a kitchen at the Manual Training and Industrial School for Colored Youth in Bordentown, New Jersey, 1935. For much of modern history, women and the kitchen have been synonymous. Source: Lewis Wickes Hine, National Museum of African American History & Culture.....	37
6. The Oregon Historic Sites Database (see Women's History Sites under "Group Name") and the Women's History Project form. Source: Oregon SHPO.....	51
7. The grounds of Gaiety Hollow. Source: Lord & Schryver Conservancy.....	56
8. Edith Schryver (left) and Elizabeth Lord (right). Source: Lord & Schryver Conservancy.....	56

9. Gerlinger Hall of the Women’s Memorial Quad. Source: University of Oregon.....	57
10. The Albertina Kerr Nursery, now known as Albertina’s Place. Source: Albertina Kerr.....	58
11. Children in the Albertina Kerr Nursery wait for haircuts, 1927. Source: Oregon Historical Society.....	58
12. The Shogren House and its expansive lawn (left). Source: Wikipedia Commons.....	59
13. Ann (left) and May (right) Shogren outside their home. Source: Oregon Historical Society.....	59
14. The “Castle on the Hill” overlooks downtown Eugene. Source: Shelton McMurphey Johnson House.....	60
15. Alberta McMurphey with husband Robert and their children. Source: Shelton McMurphey Johnson House.....	60
16: The Dundee Women’s Hall Club, know the Dundee Community Center. Source: Dundee Community Center.....	61
17. Screenshot of Georgia’s Women’s History Initiative website. Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources.....	70
18. Screenshot of the Montana Women’s History Matters website, accessed through the Montana Historical Society website. Source: Montana Historical Society.....	73

19. Beyond Schoolmarms and Madams: Montana Women’s Stories, published by MHS in 2016. Source: Montana Historical Society.....	73
20. The Margaret Bourke-White Home, a private residence, is detailed in the New Jersey Women’s Heritage Trail book, published by the New Jersey SHPO. Source: New Jersey Historic Preservation Office.....	75
21. Beatrice Morrow Cannady and her husband outside their home. Source: Oregon Historical Society.....	86
22. Cannady with schoolchildren. Source: Oregon Historical Society.....	86
23. The Williams Avenue YWCA, circa 1950s. Source: Oregon Historical Society.....	88
24. Generations of women at the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill. Source: Willamette Heritage Center.....	91
25. By the 1970s, most of the original Timberline textiles had deteriorated. Between 1975-1977, more than 4,000 yards of fabric and 100 rugs were recreated by craftspeople using the same traditional skills as WPA artists. Source: Timberline Lodge.....	92
26. Margery Hoffman Smith, by Marian Wood Kolisch. Source: Oregon Historical Society.....	93
27. Heritage Colorado’s Historypin site that incorporates an interactive map, stories, and sites. Source: Historypin.....	98
28. Aerial of the Oregonship yard near current day St. Johns, circa 1944. Source: Oregon Historical Society.....	104



29. Ca. 1943 Portland Public Schools handbook used to orient new women workers to life in the shipyards and address childcare..... 105

30. The Child Service Centers were designed like a wheel. The “hub” was a protected play area, partitioned by age levels. The “spokes” held fifteen playrooms with long banks of windows on either side. The facilities were all child-sized. Source: Oregon Historical Society..... 106

31. Aerial of the Swan Island Shipyard, ca. 1943. Source: Oregon Historical Society..... 107

32. Screenshot of a remaining building from the Kaiser Swan Island yard. Source: Google Maps..... 109

33. “Wendy the Welder” and a flame ignited. Electric Boat Co., Groton, Connecticut, 1943. Source: Bernard Hoffman/Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images..... 112

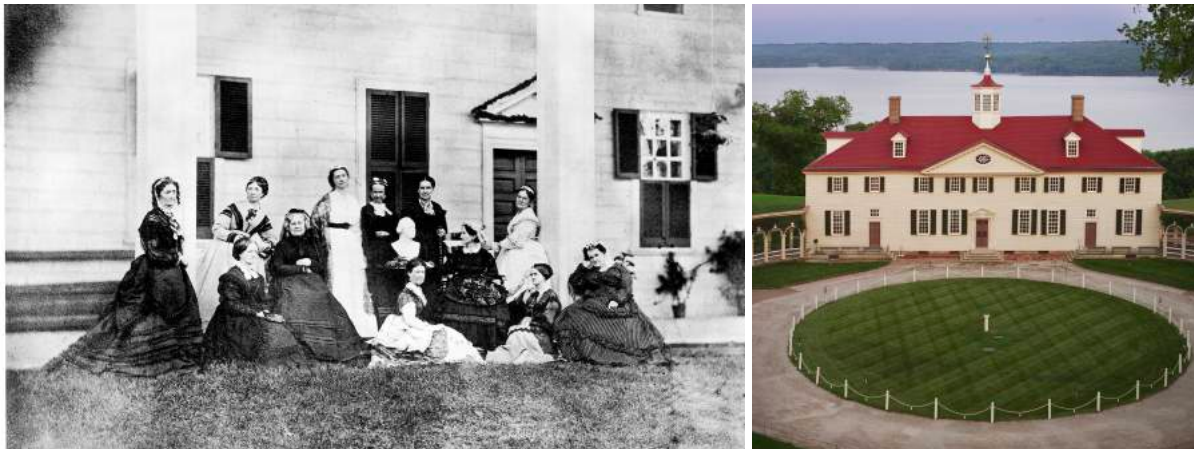
**List of Tables**

<i>Table</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. National Register-listed women's history sites in relation to all National Register-listed sites in Oregon.....	13

# **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

## Introduction

Women have always played an integral role in the development of historic preservation. The modern historic preservation movement in the U.S. in part owes its earliest beginnings to groups of pioneering women in the mid-nineteenth century. The most notable, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, purchased and restored the deteriorating home of George Washington in the mid-1800s. Today, the ladies' association remains the nation's' oldest historic preservation organization and a key example of early preservation advocacy.<sup>1</sup>



*Figure 1. The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association and Mount Vernon. Source: Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, Washington.org*

While the historic preservation movement can trace much of its origins to extraordinary groups of women, preservation policies and documentation continue

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<sup>1</sup> "Historic Preservation," George Washington's Mount Vernon (Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, 2019), <https://www.mountvernon.org/preservation/>.

to favor a historical narrative that leaves them out. As societal expectations have evolved, especially in the twenty-first century, there is an interest and demand for a complete view of history. In recent decades the preservation community on both local and national fronts have slowly expanded their view on underrepresented communities. Just as underrepresented communities based on race, ethnicity, and sexuality are slowly studied and documented, sites based on gender — specifically women — are only now being thoroughly explored.

In Oregon, the National Register and Survey Program is part of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), located within the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The program assists property owners, governments, professionals, and the public in identifying and listing the state's most historically significant resources in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register).<sup>2</sup> The National Register is the nation's "official list of buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts significant in American history, architecture, and/or archaeology."<sup>3</sup> It serves as the preeminent merit-based designation for historic resources in the United States, and a requirement for a majority of national and statewide historic

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<sup>2</sup> "Oregon National Register and Survey Program," State of Oregon: Oregon Parks & Recreation Department: Oregon Heritage: National Register (State of Oregon), accessed June 8, 2019, <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/NATREG/Pages/index.aspx>.

<sup>3</sup> "National Register of Historic Places," National Parks Service (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, December 3, 2018), <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>.

preservation incentives. The National Register is maintained by the National Park Service (NPS) in Washington, D.C., and is administered in Oregon by the SHPO. The regulation of National Register-listed properties in Oregon takes place at the local level and is considered “top-tier” designation in the state.

The Oregon Historic Sites Database houses the state’s official list of surveyed properties and those listed in the National Register. As of May 22, 2019, there are 16,003 sites listed in the National Register in the database either individually, in a district, or both. Spurred by the centennial of women’s suffrage in Oregon, in 2012 the SHPO launched the Oregon Women’s History Project and created a group titled Women’s History Sites. The group currently has forty-two sites. Of those, only twenty are listed in the National Register. While this does not represent the entire stock of women's history sites in Oregon, it can be said with a large margin of error that less than 1% of sites listed in the National Register in Oregon are listed explicitly for their association with women's history.



*Table 1: National Register-listed women's history sites in relation to all National Register-listed sites in Oregon*

If women represent 50.5% of Oregon's population, why is less than 1% of historic resources listed for their association with important women from Oregon's past or have a distinct focus on women or women's issues?<sup>4</sup> Why is gender represented so disproportionately? Through an analysis of the Oregon Women's History Project

<sup>4</sup> "QuickFacts: Oregon," United States Census Bureau (U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, 2018), <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/or>; "Oregon Heritage Women's History Project" (Salem: Women's History Project, Oregon Heritage, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 2012).

and other state's SHPO initiatives, this terminal project will examine the representation of women's history sites in Oregon. It will investigate what forces are limiting resources from being nominated for their significance to women's history in the state and will result in recommendations for increasing the number and breadth of women's history sites in the National Register and through alternative preservation tools. By understanding the significance of women's history sites and actively pursuing their preservation, the Oregon historic preservation community can provide a more comprehensive view of the state's history and valuable historical resources.

### **Why women's history sites? Why now?**

The earliest preservation efforts in the country emphasized, among others, architectural marvels, sites with national significance, and stately homes of prominent Caucasian males. In recent decades the study of vernacular architecture, the "recent past," and important sites to underrepresented communities are gaining recognition. Numerous states have developed historical contexts or developed full initiatives for surveying, documenting, and preserving places important to African American, Native American, Asian American, and Hispanic/Latino heritage. The preservation of sites integral to LGBTQ communities has also slowly gained traction. The 2004 historic context statement "Sexing the



City: The Development of Sexual Identity Based Subcultures in San Francisco, 1933-1979" and the 2014 SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement were the first in the nation to address LGBTQ heritage.<sup>567</sup> Gradually, others, like the "Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco" by Donna J. Graves and Shayne E. Watson, soon followed.<sup>8</sup>

As has been the case with racial, ethnic, and sexuality and gender-based identity cultures, women's history sites have been overlooked. The literature review and historical contexts will help illustrate why the topic of gender has been a complicated subject for decades. With the recent #MeToo movement, the record-breaking 2018 election of the highest percentage of women representatives in the United States Congress,<sup>9</sup> a vocal call for gender pay across a range of disciplines,<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> "SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement," Los Angeles Conservancy, 2019, <https://www.laconservancy.org/surveyla-lgbt-historic-context-statement>.

<sup>6</sup> GPA Consulting et al., "SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement" (Los Angeles: City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning Office of Historic Resources, September 2014).

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 2.

<sup>8</sup> Donna J. Graves and Shayne E. Watson, "Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco" (San Francisco: City & County of San Francisco, March 2016).

<sup>9</sup> Drew DeSilver, "A Record Number of Women Will Be Serving in the New Congress," Pew Research Center (Pew Research Center, December 18, 2018), <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2018/12/18/record-number-women-in-congress/>.

<sup>10</sup> Sean Gregory, "'You Have to Take a Stand.' Soccer Phenom Alex Morgan Wants the Respect—and Money—Female Players Deserve," Time (Time, May 23, 2019), <http://time.com/5594356/alex-morgan-world-cup/>; Courtney Connley, "A New Report Highlights Silicon Valley's Stunning Gender Equity Gap," CNBC (CNBC, September 20, 2018), <https://www.cnbc.com/2018/09/19/in-silicon-valley-women-face-an-equity-gap-that-is-far-larger-than-the-pay-gap.html>; Elise Gould, "Latina Workers Have to Work 10 Months into 2018 to Be Paid the Same as White Non-Hispanic Men in 2017," Working Economics Blog (Economic Policy Institute, October 31, 2018), <https://www.epi.org/blog/latina-workers-have-to-work-10-months-into-2018-to-be-paid-the-same-as-white-non-hispanic-men-in-2017/>.

and the 2017 Women’s March (the largest single-day protest in U.S. history),<sup>11</sup> gender equality is a timely topic. It is now time to make it a more pressing matter in preservation.

## **Scope & Methodology**

### **Scope**

This project will broadly examine women’s history sites in Oregon. It will investigate what forces are limiting these sites from being historically designated in the state and what other states have done to address it. This project will result in a range of recommendations for increasing the number and breadth of designated sites in addition to alternatives for those that do not meet the standards of traditional preservation tools like the National Register.

Since the Oregon SHPO has an existing initiative in place (Oregon Women’s History Project), the recommendations will serve as a broad call to reframe their initiative. Furthermore, this project aims to encourage and assist other stakeholders who can contribute to the objectives through National Register nominations, Multiple

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<sup>11</sup> Matt Broomfield, "Women's March against Donald Trump Is the Largest Day of Protests in U.S. History, Say Political Scientists," The Independent (Independent Digital News and Media, January 23, 2017), <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/womens-march-anti-donald-trump-womens-rights-largest-protest-demonstration-us-history-political-a7541081.html>.

Property Submissions (MPS), historic context statements, and other non-traditional efforts outlined in Chapter 4. Additionally, it can serve as an example for other underrepresented communities. The ultimate goal for this project is that the Oregon SHPO and other preservation community members advance women's history sites to a higher priority for preservation.

Initially, the project scope was solely focused on increasing the number and depth of women's history sites in the National Register in Oregon. However, through this process, the National Register was found to be too much of a limitation. The top three hurdles that arose when researching sites that could potentially be designated through this federal tool were the lack of historical documentation tying women to that site, a lack of integrity of a site, or a non-existent site. This overarching absence of historical evidence paired with the rigorous criteria of the National Register made it an overly-limiting scope; solely focusing on sites that could be listed through traditional means would perpetuate the problem. As highlighted in later chapters, the National Register cannot and should not be the singular tool for saving women's history sites. Its emphasis on architectural integrity and availability of primary documents and sources, most importantly, is restrictive on a demographic that has been systematically omitted from primary and secondary sources for centuries. As a result, the scope was revised away from a specific

emphasis on increasing National Register sites and instead on how to represent women's history sites through a variety of statewide actions. The main objective throughout this process has revolved around the best answer to a single question: How can the preservation community in Oregon increase the number and breadth of women's history sites and minimize the gender bias gap in historic sites?

## **Methodology**

The literature review and early steps in the process were complex; what happens when a topic *does not* have much literature? How does one evaluate what *has not* been done rather than what has been? Research for this project began with an extensive literature review, highlighted in the following section. Through this literature review, an understanding of the history of this argument became clear and why little is written on women's history sites in historic preservation. Chapter 2 was a result of this extensive literature review.

Historic contexts on women's history were explored; however, the only ones that were attainable (Georgia's historical contexts) were regional and did not yield information significantly relevant to this project. Instead, historical contexts on underrepresented communities served as the primary examples for the structure of this project and its recommendations. The "Citywide Historic Context Statement

for LGBTQ History in San Francisco" by Donna J. Graves and Shayne E. Watson was a particularly helpful example. While the context revolved around sexuality and not gender, it had a similar goal of uncovering important sites of an underrepresented community and is applicable for similar groups.

To better understand where women's history sites initiatives stand on a state and local level, a web review of all fifty SHPO websites was performed to determine which states had actively initiated the survey, documentation, and/or preservation of women's history sites. A web review was chosen above other approaches for time limitation, but even more so to see what information was public facing. Each SHPO website was accessed via the "State Historic Preservation Office" page on the NPS website.<sup>12</sup> This evaluation acknowledges that there is a chance states have initiatives in place that are not public-facing.

Each identified SHPO initiative was then evaluated with the following criteria:

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<sup>12</sup> "State Historic Preservation Offices," National Parks Service (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, March 5, 2019), <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/state-historic-preservation-offices.htm>.

### ***Initiative Evaluation Criteria***

- Was an initiative or mention of women's history sites found via a public-facing website? Did the SHPO website have an initiative that could easily be attained off the website rather than a private database or through correspondence?
  - Is there an initiative specifically for nominating National Register properties?
  - Historic context statement?
  - Multiple Property Submissions?
  - Highway Marker programs?
  - A group in the state's site database?
  - Digital tours and maps?
  - Print resources, like published books, manuscripts, teaching guides, tour books?
  - Crowdsourcing campaigns? Does it give the public information on how to contribute?
  - Bibliographies and research materials?
  - A dedicated website for women's history sites?
  - Oral histories, video, and other multimedia?

- ❑ Is there any mention of surveying, documenting, and preserving women's history sites in the state historic preservation plan?

Each criterion was worth one point. Those with no discernable initiative were grouped under Group C: Opportunity States. Those with one to four points were designated Group B: Active States and those above five points were designated Group A: Model States.

Some SHPOs, like Alaska and Washington, D.C., had one point for mentioning women as part of the need to preserve sites related to underrepresented communities. However, because a specific initiative was not found, these particular SHPOs were not included in Group B, and instead Group C. It should also be mentioned that some states, like California, had a unique system in place for accessing historical records. The California Historical Resources Inventory System houses the state's Historic Resource Inventory (HRI) and is not accessible to the public via the internet.<sup>13</sup> While California could potentially have an initiative in place, the inaccessibility of its database impacted the search, and it was grouped under Opportunity States.

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<sup>13</sup> "Historic Contexts & Resource Surveys," California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation (State of California, 2019), [http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=23317](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=23317); "Accessing the CHRIS Inventory," California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation (State of California, 2019), [http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=28066](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=28066).

Once the SHPO initiatives were evaluated, it was better understood where Oregon stood in the national context. The top states were very apparent, and many recommendations were drawn from them. It also allowed for more credit to be given to Oregon; the state should be lauded for being only one of fifteen identifiable states that have actively pursued initiatives. This shifted the perspective towards advancing Oregon's initiative to a higher standard rather than establishing an entirely new initiative.

## **Purpose & Intended Audience**

The purpose of this terminal project is three-fold.

First, this study intends to broaden the preconceived ideas of what constitutes a women's history site. Women's history sites may not be significant solely for their association with important women or women-related events. For example, the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill is significant in the areas of architecture and industry and is one of the last remaining plants in North America "capable of demonstrating an



entire manufacturing process by direct-drive water power.”<sup>14</sup> Additionally, according to Oregon SHPO, at one time one in five non-agricultural laborers in Salem worked at the mill, and a large number were women. The women laborers sorted and prepared woolens and were primarily blanket makers. The wool blankets were one of the mills main products, especially during both World Wars when they were manufactured for the U.S. military.<sup>15</sup> Advancing the conversation past traditional “women spaces” like kitchens and educational institutions will increase the representation of stories and sites that would otherwise be overlooked.

Second, the purpose of this study is to serve as a resource and a stepping stone for further work and study. The recommendations are structured for a varied audience. The intended audience of this study is first and foremost, the Oregon SHPO, as it is their initiative and database that is being analyzed and updated. This study can also serve as a tool for historians, cultural resource professionals, educators, women’s groups, and students to pursue these initiatives further.

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<sup>14</sup> Walton, Elisabeth, “Thomas Kay Woolen Mill,” National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, National Register No. 73001579, Oregon State Highway Division, Salem, Marion County, Oregon, May 8, 1973.

<sup>15</sup> “Oregon Women’s History,” Oregon Parks & Recreation Department: Oregon Heritage: Historic Places (State of Oregon), accessed June 8, 2019, <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/hcd/hstplcs/pages/womenhist.aspx>.

Third, this project can serve as an example not only for increasing the representation of women's history sites on various scales, but also replicated for other underrepresented communities whose stories are slowly coming to light.

## **Existing Literature**

The literature review for this study mirrors the issues that consistently plague designating women's historic sites. There is substantial documentation on the National Register, historic preservation, and its other various tools. Documentation also exists on women's history and Oregon women's history, especially from historians, women, gender, and sexuality historians, and the nonprofit sector. However, an extensive search for sources specifically on historic preservation and women's history yielded just a single-digit number of sources. These sources are from particular time frames (1980s-2000s), overlapping authors (Gail Lee Dubrow, Heather Huyck, Antoinette J. Lee, Donna Graves, among others), and select organizations (NPS and historians). A majority of sources are direct results of calls-to-action; sources like *Exploring a Common Past: Researching and Interpreting Women's History for Historic Sites* were the results of NPS initiatives and the beginning of integrating women's history into their planning. They serve as evidence of the topics' ebb and flow throughout the past thirty years where the

national narrative, especially within the NPS, was specifically addressing the complex issue of surveying, documenting, and preserving women's history sites.

Two significant sources stand out as pivotal bodies of work for their specific focus on women's history sites and historic preservation: *Reclaiming the Past: Landmarks of Women's History* edited by Page Putnam Miller and *Restoring Women's History Through Historic Preservation* edited by Gail Lee Dubrow and Jennifer Goodman.

Page Putnam Miller's edited collection *Reclaiming the Past: Landmarks of Women's History* was generated by research from the National Park Service's National Historic Landmark Theme Study on women's history sites. Published in 1992, the essays provide a "critical context" for evaluating a site's significance under broad themes of women and architecture, the arts, community, education, politics, religion, and work.<sup>16</sup>

*Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation* was published in 2003 and includes a range of essays from many of the constant advocates for the topic. It draws upon work presented at the three national conferences held on women and

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<sup>16</sup> Gail Lee Dubrow, "Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation: Recent Developments in Scholarship and Public Historical Practice," essay, in *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation*, ed. Gail Lee Dubrow and Jennifer B. Goodman (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003), pp. 1-14, 10.

historic preservation in the 1990s and 2000s that are further highlighted in later chapters.<sup>17</sup>

In recent years there has slowly been a revitalization as the issue comes to light alongside the increasing emphasis on underrepresented communities. Most recently, the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 2018 released *“Every Story Told”: Centering Women’s History*, a journal solely dedicated to the issue of preserving and interpreting women’s history sites.<sup>18</sup> Roughly 98% of all authors identified are women. Not much has been written about it, and today, the literature on the topic remains stagnant.

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<sup>17</sup> Dubrow and Goodman, eds., *Restoring Women’s History through Historic Preservation*, ix.

<sup>18</sup> Stephanie Meeks et al., *Forum Journal: “Every Story Told”: Centering Women’s History* 32, no. 2 (2018), <https://forum.savingplaces.org/viewdocument/forum-journal-every-story-told?ssoToken=90485cbd-20a6-440d-8414-fa549045f714&Site=nthp>.

## **CHAPTER 2: CONTEXT OF GENDER IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

## **Federal Preservation Tools in Context**

Understanding federal preservation tools and the context in which they were developed will provide a more comprehensive background to the “gender debate” and why the preservation of women’s history sites has been difficult.

### **National Historic Preservation Act of 1966**

Although preceded by the American Antiquities Act of 1906 and the Historic Sites Act of 1935, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) became the first and most comprehensive federal preservation legislation when it was signed into law in 1966. The act is responsible for, among other things:

- The creation of the National Register of Historic Places
- Establishing the partnership between federal, state, local, and tribal governments, which is supported by federal funding<sup>19</sup>
- The establishment of State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs)
- The creation of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the first and only federal agency created solely to address historic preservation issues<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> “National Historic Preservation Act,” Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation), accessed June 8, 2019, <https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/national-historic-preservation-act>.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

- Establishing a structure for federal review and mitigation through Section

106

Since its passing, the NHPA has been amended multiple times. In 1980, the legislation was amended to create the Certified Local Government Program (CLG) which encouraged the direct participation of local governments in the identification, evaluation, registration, and preservation of historic properties and the integration of preservation into the local planning and decision-making processes.<sup>21</sup>

Today, the NHPA continues to serve as the defining preservation act for preservation efforts, with the NPS serving as the authority. The act created the framework that is still followed today, where the federal government provides the overarching structure of preservation processes, the primary preservation tool (NRHP), and federal funding and incentives. Also, the National Park Service serves as the determining voice for the federal government's preservation theory and management. State governments (SHPOs) predominantly serve as the federal-local intermediary. The state advises and assists local governments and encourages the

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<sup>21</sup> "CLG Program Q & A," California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation (State of California, 2019), [http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24494](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24494).

advancement of preservation on a state and local level. Preservation and resource protection occur at the local level.<sup>22</sup>



*Figure 2. Urban renewal's reach on Pittsburgh's "slums." Source: Pittsburgh Press.*

From a broader perspective, the NHPA and the National Register were created in response to a dynamic time in U.S. history. The Great Depression and World War II had caused widespread dilapidated infrastructure, and in response, urban renewal promised rejuvenation. By the 1960s, urban renewal had cleared swaths of

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<sup>22</sup> Norman Tyler, *Historic Preservation: An Introduction to Its History, Principles, and Practice* (New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2000), 54-55.



neighborhoods and permanently altered virtually every American city.<sup>23</sup> The demolition of New York City's monolithic Penn Station became the grassroots martyr for historic preservation, and the NHPA was specifically instated to address the loss of significant structures across the country and the emphasis on preserving architectural landmarks was established.<sup>24</sup>

The NHPA created a framework for what historian Antoinette J. Lee describes as "'mainstream' preservation work" where historians, architects, cultural resource management professionals, engineers, and others in both public and private sectors document historic buildings, nominate them for local, state, or national recognition, plan and undertake preservation building plans and rehabilitation efforts, and study building materials. "As a result," she argues, "the public typically views historic preservation work as the protection of architectural landmarks that can be appreciated by owners, users, and the public."<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> "Introduction," National Parks Service (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, January 13, 2015), <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/introduction.htm>.

<sup>24</sup> "National Historic Preservation Act," National Parks Service (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, December 2, 2018), <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservation/national-historic-preservation-act.htm>.

<sup>25</sup> Antoinette J. Lee, "From Historic Architecture to Cultural Heritage: A Journey Through Diversity, Identity, and Community," *Future Anterior: Journal of Historic Preservation, History, Theory, and Criticism* 1, no. 2 (2004): pp. 14-23, 15.

In theory, the NHPA and its tools were meant to preserve the nations' unique heritage so that its "vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans."<sup>26</sup> In practice, the preservation of resources that reflected the diversity of the U.S. would be neglected. The preservation community would continue to focus mostly on conventional historic resources for the decades that followed and stray from addressing intangible heritage and resources associated with unconventional topics.

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<sup>26</sup> National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 U.S.C § 470 (1966).

## **“The Gender Debate”: Gender in the Context of History and Historic Preservation**

*“The historical invisibility of women is often due to the fact that we look for them in exactly the same activities as are pursued by men, and thus we cannot find them.”*

*- Gerda Lerner, renowned historian and godmother of Women’s History Studies<sup>27</sup>*

### **Women in History**

The field of history in the United States traditionally leans on historical documents from the government, law cases, written accounts, and primary sources. Since women have rarely been included in these primary and secondary sources — omitted by their status in society throughout the previous centuries — the field does not provide a comprehensive view of women’s history. Women have become historically “invisible.”

Some issues that plague historians are researching women's history are common for most historians.<sup>28</sup> Some, however, are unique. Historian June Purvis in *Using Primary Sources When Researching Women’s History from a Feminist Perspective*

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<sup>27</sup> Gerda Lerner, *The Majority Finds Its Past: Placing Women in History* (New York: New York: Oxford University Press, 1979), xxix-xxx.

<sup>28</sup> June Purvis, "Using Primary Sources When Researching Women's History from a Feminist Perspective," *Women's History Review* 1, no. 2 (1992): pp. 273-306, <https://doi.org/10.1080/0961202920010205>, 275.

highlights various ways women are systematically hidden in sources. Language, for example, can make little reference to women even if they are present; Purvis highlights that women's part in England's early trade union organizations are covered in "linguistic ambiguities" since the term "journeyman" included journeywomen. Official documents can eliminate women and certain aspects of their life; Nineteenth-century census data, for example, lists the majority of women as "unemployed" even though many were expected to contribute economically to their family. Taking this census information at face value eliminates the historical evidence that working women have existed throughout history.<sup>29</sup>



*Figure 3: Postcard, ca. 1912, courtesy of the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum. Source: National Museum of American History*

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<sup>29</sup> Ibid., 280



Figure 4. A 1962 textbook used in American schools with explicit gender bias. Source: UNESCO/BBC.

In addition to primary sources, numerous studies have also determined that gender bias continues to be prevalent in global education.<sup>30</sup> In 2008, UNESCO's Education for All Global Monitoring Report announced that "gender bias in textbooks turns out to be one of the best camouflaged and hardest to budge—

<sup>30</sup> Nelly P. Stromquist, "Increasing Girls' and Women's Participation in Basic Education" (UNESCO, International Institute for Educational Planning, 1997); Sheila Aikman, Elaine Unterhalter, and Chloe Challender, "The Education MDGs: Achieving Gender Equality Through Curriculum and Pedagogy Change," *Gender & Development* 13, no. 1 (2005): pp. 44-55, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13552070512331332276>; Rae Lesser Blumberg, "The Invisible Obstacle to Educational Equality: Gender Bias in Textbooks," *Prospects* 38, no. 3 (2008): pp. 345-361, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11125-009-9086-1>; Elaine Unterhalter, Chloe Challender, and Rajee Rajagopalan, "Measuring Gender Equality in Education," ed. S. Aikman and E. Unterhalter, *Beyond Access*, 2005, pp. 60-80, <https://doi.org/10.3362/9780855986605.003>; Mana Nakagawa and Christine Min Wotipka, "The Worldwide Incorporation of Women and Women's Rights Discourse in Social Science Textbooks, 1970-2008," *Comparative Education Review* 60, no. 3 (2016): pp. 501-529, <https://doi.org/10.1086/687113>.

rocks in the road to gender equality in education."<sup>31</sup> In the report's condensed version, "The invisible obstacle to educational equality: gender bias in textbooks?"

Rae Lesser Blumberg asserts why textbooks matter while highlighting statistics:

- Students spend upwards of 80 to 95% of classroom time using textbooks and that teachers make a majority of their instructional decisions based on textbooks.<sup>32</sup>
- A Canadian study found that, on average, teachers use textbooks for 70 to 90% of classroom time.<sup>33</sup>

The report maintains that "textbooks have not adequately reflected the range of women's roles and occupations in the real world"<sup>34</sup> and that "textbooks, curricula and teacher attitudes continue to reinforce stereotypes on gender roles in society."<sup>35</sup> Furthermore, additional studies have found that women's invisibility in textbooks has been mainly concentrated in history and social science textbooks.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Rae Lesser Blumberg, "The Invisible Obstacle to Educational Equality: Gender Bias in Textbooks," *Prospects* 38, no. 3 (2008): pp. 345-361, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11125-009-9086-1>.

<sup>32</sup> D. Sadker and K. Zittleman, "Gender Bias from Colonial America to Today's Classrooms," ed. J. A. Banks and C. A. McGee Banks, *Multicultural Education: Issues and Perspectives*, 2007, pp. 135-169, 144.

<sup>33</sup> Blumberg, "The Invisible Obstacle to Educational Equality: Gender Bias in Textbooks," 346.

<sup>34</sup> I. A. Jassey, "Gender in Elementary School Texts," *Japan Quarterly* 45 (1998): pp. 87-93, 88.

<sup>35</sup> Blumberg, "The Invisible Obstacle to Educational Equality: Gender Bias in Textbooks," 357.

<sup>36</sup> Nakagawa and Wotipka, "The Worldwide Incorporation of Women and Women's Rights Discourse in Social Science Textbooks, 1970-2008," 501.

Like period clothing or archaeological artifacts, historic sites serve as tangible assets and primary resources. One area to note where historic preservation and primary historical resources overlap is in historic interiors. Some historians equate the inaccuracies to the architectural interiors of women and the exteriors as territories of men, like carpenters, architects, masons, builders, and homeowners. Considering interiors are subject to significant change, this dominant primary source has a much higher chance of being deleted. The destruction of historic interiors strips evidence that women worked and lived outside of the home, "reinforcing historical inaccuracies that suggest that women were once exclusively domestic creatures."<sup>37</sup>



*Figure 5: Four women work in a kitchen at the Manual Training and Industrial School for Colored Youth in Bordentown, New Jersey, 1935. For much of modern history, women and the kitchen have been synonymous. Source: Lewis Wickes Hine, National Museum of African American History & Culture.*

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<sup>37</sup> *ibid.*

The purpose of focusing on sites that emphasize women's history is not about eliminating the influence of men; instead, it is to fill in the gaps of the historical record and contribute to the gradual progression towards a comprehensive view of history. Today, in many cases, it is presumed that all stories are automatically included in the narrative. However, like the case with children's textbooks, gender bias is hidden in plain sight.

### **Women & Early Preservation Efforts**

Throughout the first two centuries of the United States, many of the most prominent early preservation efforts were led by women. In 1830, Sarah Josepha Hale led a women's group to raise funds to complete the Bunker Hill Memorial in Boston. She would later join the Mount Vernon Ladies Association (MVLA) and the effort to save the dilapidated home of the nation's first president.<sup>38</sup> Many historians argue that Mount Vernon was the first successful nation-wide preservation project,

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<sup>38</sup> Barbara J. Howe, "Women in the Nineteenth-Century Preservation Movement," essay, in *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation*, ed. Gail Lee. Dubrow and Jennifer B. Goodman (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003), pp. 17-36, 18.



and its effect “can hardly be overestimated, for almost every early preservation group had some contact with the Ladies’ Association.”<sup>39</sup>

Early preservation efforts and patriotism were undeniably linked. Prominent groups like the MVLA and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) were rooted in the preservation of sites associated with the founding of the United States. In particular, much of their work focused on the acquisition and preservation of prominent, wealthy, white male’s estates. The estates of George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, among others, became some of the first house museums and set much of the tone for early preservation efforts. By the turn of the century, individual women and women’s groups (some with male advisors) were in full swing working through private organizations to preserve historic buildings yet far from acknowledging the stories of “others.”

### **The National Register of Historic Places and the Gender Debate (pre-1990s)**

Following the establishment of the NHPA and NRHP, the Civil Rights Movement and the start of the Women's Liberation Movement, the NPS began the "gender

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<sup>39</sup> Judith Wellman, "'It's a Wide Community Indeed': Alliances and Issues in Creating Women's Rights National Historical Park, Seneca Falls, New York," essay, in *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation*, ed. Gail Lee Dubrow and Jennifer B. Goodman (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003), pp. 230-247, 233.; Charles Bridgham Hosmer and Walter Muir Whitehill, *Presence of the Past: a History of the Preservation Movement in the United States before Williamsburg* (New York, N.Y.: New York, N.Y. : Putnam, 1965), 57.

debate." Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the conversation of whether or not women's history sites could constitute a specific category for flagging sites in the National Register database came to a head. At times, the conversation within the NPS revolved around the idea that separating sites by gender would place more emphasis on gender rather than its significance, like the deeds of the important person, the architectural merit, or the site's association with an event. In 1989, the Organization of American Historians and the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History entered into a cooperative agreement with the NPS to undertake a Women's History Landmark Project. The debate began to shift slowly.

### **The Gender Debate Shifts: Gender as an Area of Significance (the 1990s)**

The gender debate in the 1990s saw a shift from *should* to *how*. The NPS, many SHPOs, and local governments began to understand that it is no longer about whether or not gender should be explored, but rather what and how specific initiatives would be implemented.

In 1994, the first National Conference on Women and Historic Preservation was held, and in 1995, Georgia became one of the first states to implement a SHPO initiative for women's history. This era mirrored the broader conversation in American events like the Year of the Woman, Anita Hill, the "Girl Power" movement,

among others. The rise of second-wave feminism brought forth the first wave of women's history initiatives in the U.S. in addition to the public assumption that gender equality would be achieved. That dream was not realized.<sup>40</sup>

### **Underrepresented Communities (the 2000s — Present)**

In recent years, the preservation community has slowly shifted towards increasing the representation of underrepresented communities. Cities like San Francisco and Los Angeles established the nation's first LGBTQ Historic Context Statements.<sup>41</sup> Heritage and History Initiatives within the National Historic Landmarks Program were developed to further the representation of diverse stories within the Program and the National Park Service. In 2011, the NPS Women's History Initiative was launched. Since its inception, seven properties have received NHL designation. The NPS is also using this initiative as an opportunity to improve the interpretation of women's history within national parks.<sup>42</sup> Various SHPOs also began state initiatives for racial and ethnic resources in addition to women's history sites initiatives. In 2012, the Oregon SHPO created their initiative in conjunction with the centennial of the women's suffrage in Oregon.

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<sup>40</sup> Allison Yarrow, "How the '90s Tricked Women into Thinking They'd Gained Gender Equality," Time (Time USA, June 13, 2018), <http://time.com/5310256/90s-gender-equality-progress/>.

<sup>41</sup> "SurveyLA LGBT Historic Context Statement," Los Angeles Conservancy, 2019.

<sup>42</sup> "Heritage and History Initiatives," National Parks Service (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Parks Service, August 31, 2018), <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/heritage-and-history-initiatives.htm>.

## **Chronology of Women in Historic Preservation in the United States**

The following events related to history, women's history, and historic preservation create a better understanding of the struggle for gender equality across all areas.

While not entirely comprehensive, the following chronology summarizes major women's history and historic preservation events in the United States:

**1830** Sarah Josepha Hale leads a women's group to raise funds to complete the Bunker Hill Memorial in Boston. Hale would later join the efforts to save Mount Vernon.<sup>43</sup>

**1848** The Seneca Falls Convention is held, kickstarting the Women's Suffrage Movement.

**1848** Louisa Tuthill writes the first history of American architecture, *History of Architecture from the Earliest Times; its Present Condition in Europe and the United States; With a Biography of Eminent Architects and a Glossary of Architectural Terms by Mrs. L.C. Tuthill, with Numerous Illustrations*.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Barbara J. Howe, "Women in the Nineteenth-Century Preservation Movement," in *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation*, 18.

<sup>44</sup> *Ibid.*, 18-19.

- 1860** The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association (MVLA) finalizes the purchase of George Washington's home.<sup>45</sup>
- 1889** A group of women found the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (now Preservation Virginia), the nation's first private statewide historic preservation organization. Male advisory board members would speak publicly for the group until 1910, although at least one — James Alston Cabell — admitted that the women members did “most of the work.”<sup>46</sup>
- 1890** The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is founded after women are excluded from the Sons of the American Revolution. One of its objectives includes “the acquisition and protection of historical spots, and the erection of monuments.” The group would be the first national organization for the protection of historic sites in the United States and would be responsible for the preservation of the Betsy Ross House, among others.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> James Lindgren, *Preserving the Old Dominion: Historic Preservation and Virginia Traditionalism* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1993), 59, 61, 66.

<sup>47</sup> Barbara J. Howe, “Women in the Nineteenth-Century Preservation Movement,” in *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation*, 28.

**1906** The Antiquities Act of 1906 — the first preservation legislature — is passed.

**1906** Virginia Donaghe McClurg and the Women's Club of Denver are predominant factors in the designation of Mesa Verde National Park, the first national park designated specifically for the preservation of cultural resources.<sup>48</sup>

**1920** The 19th Amendment is passed, and women gain the right to vote in the U.S.

**1921** The Equal Rights Amendment is first introduced.

**1960s** Civil Rights Movement and the Women's Liberation Movement are in full force throughout the nation.

**1966** The National Organization for Women (NOW) is founded. NOW became an umbrella organization for many feminist causes. Today its purpose is to "take action through intersectional grassroots activism to promote feminist ideals,

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<sup>48</sup> Marion Tinling, *Women Remembered: A Guide to Landmarks of Women's History in the United States* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1986), 642-643; National Park Service, *The National Parks: Index 1987* (Washington, D.C: U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1987), 29; J. C. Croly, *The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America* (New York, NY: Henry G. Allen and Co., 1898), 266; William C. Everhart, *The National Park Service* (New York, NY: Praeger Publishers, 1972), 12.

lead societal change, eliminate discrimination, and achieve and protect the equal rights of all women and girls in all aspects of social, political, and economic life."<sup>49</sup>

**1970** San Diego State University formally establishes the nation's first Women's Studies university program.<sup>50</sup>

**1975** The United Nations proclaims 1975 International Women's Year.

**1975** As a result of International Women's Year, the United Nations holds the first global conference on women — the World Conference of the International Women's Year — in Mexico City.<sup>51</sup>

**1977** The National Women's Conference, the United States' first feminist conference since Seneca Falls, is held in Houston, TX. The conference was authorized by public law and supported with federal funds.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> "About," National Organization for Women, 2019, <https://now.org/about/>.

<sup>50</sup> "History," College of Arts and Letters, Department of Women's Studies (San Diego State University, 2017), <https://womensstudies.sdsu.edu/history.htm>.

<sup>51</sup> "World Conferences on Women," U.N. Women (U.N. Women), accessed June 8, 2019, <http://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/intergovernmental-support/world-conferences-on-women>.

<sup>52</sup> Debbie Mauldin Cottrell, "National Women's Conference, 1977," The Handbook of Texas Online (Texas State Historical Association, June 15, 2010), <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/pwngq>.

- 1979** Equal Rights Amendment fails to get ratified by enough states by the deadline.
- 1982** The Women's Rights National Historical Park opens in Seneca Falls, NY.
- 1988** Heather A. Huyck first brings attention to the problem of interpreting women's history in national parks through her essay "Beyond John Wayne."<sup>53</sup>
- 1989** The Organization of American Historians and the National Coordinating Committee for the Promotion of History enters into a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) to undertake a Women's History Landmark Project.
- 1992** The NPS Women's History Landmark Project is completed. The project culminated in the designation of forty national historic landmarks.
- 1992** *Reclaiming the Past: Landmarks of Women's History*, edited by Page Putnam

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<sup>53</sup> Gail Lee Dubrow, "Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation: Recent Developments in Scholarship and Public Historical Practice," 6.



Miller, is published. The compilation was a result of research and analysis pulled from the Women's History Landmark Project and continues to serve as a pivotal body of work for this topic.<sup>54</sup>

**1994** The first National Conference on Women and Historic Preservation is held in Philadelphia, PA.

**1995** The United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women is held in Beijing. The conference marked a "significant turning point for the global agenda for gender equality." The conference resulted in the *Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action* that was adopted by 189 countries. Today it is considered the key global policy document on gender equality.<sup>55</sup>

**1995** Georgia's State Historic Preservation Office, the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of National Resources, establishes its

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<sup>54</sup> Jennifer B. Goodman, "Best Practices for Saving Women's Heritage Sites: Nonprofit Case Studies," essay, in *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation*, ed. Gail Lee Dubrow and Jennifer B. Goodman (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003), pp. 214-229, 228.

<sup>55</sup> "World Conferences on Women," U.N. Women.

Women's History Initiative to identify, document, evaluate, and preserve historic places concerning women's history.<sup>56</sup>

**1995** Delores Hayden's *Power of Place* is published. The book "proposes new perspectives on gender, race, and ethnicity to broaden the practice of public history and public art, enlarge urban preservation, and reorient the writing of urban history to spatial struggles."<sup>57</sup>

**1997** The second National Conference on Women and Historic Preservation is held in Tempe, AZ.

**1998** The NPS creates a website titled "Places Where Women Made History" and a travel itinerary series, "Discover Our Shared Heritage," in honor of the 150th anniversary of the Seneca Falls conference.

**1999** New Jersey allocates \$70,000 for their first women's history sites initiative, a comprehensive survey of the states' women's history sites.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> Leslie N. Sharp, "Finding Her Place: Integrating Women's History into Historic Preservation in Georgia," essay, in *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation*, ed. Gail Lee Dubrow and Jennifer B. Goodman (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003), pp. 263-280, 264.

<sup>57</sup> "Dolores Hayden," The MIT Press, 2019, <https://mitpress.mit.edu/contributors/dolores-hayden>.

<sup>58</sup> Gail Lee Dubrow, "Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation: Recent Developments in Scholarship and Public Historical Practice," 11.

**1999** The Stonewall Inn, site of the Stonewall riots of 1969, becomes the first LGBTQ site to be listed in the National Register. It subsequently is listed as a National Historic Landmark.<sup>59</sup>

**2000** The third National Conference on Women and Historic Preservation is held in Washington, D.C.

**2010** The National Historic Landmarks Program's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) Heritage Initiative is completed.

**2012** The National Historic Landmark Program's Women's History Initiative is completed, as is the American Latino Heritage Initiative and the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Initiative.

**2012** Oregon SHPO begins the Oregon Women's History Project in celebration of the centennial of Oregonian women's' right to vote.

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<sup>59</sup> Hayley Miller, "LGBT Landmarks Added to National Register of Historic Places," The Human Rights Campaign, May 5, 2016, <https://www.hrc.org/blog/lgbt-landmarks-added-to-national-park-services-national-register-of-histori>.

## **CHAPTER 3: EVALUATION OF STATEWIDE WOMEN'S HISTORY SITES INITIATIVES**

## The Oregon Heritage Women’s History Project in Context

In 2012 the Oregon SHPO began the Oregon Women’s History Project in celebration of the centennial of Oregonian women’s right to vote. The office developed a process for public participation and created the Women’s History Sites group in their Oregon Historic Sites Database.

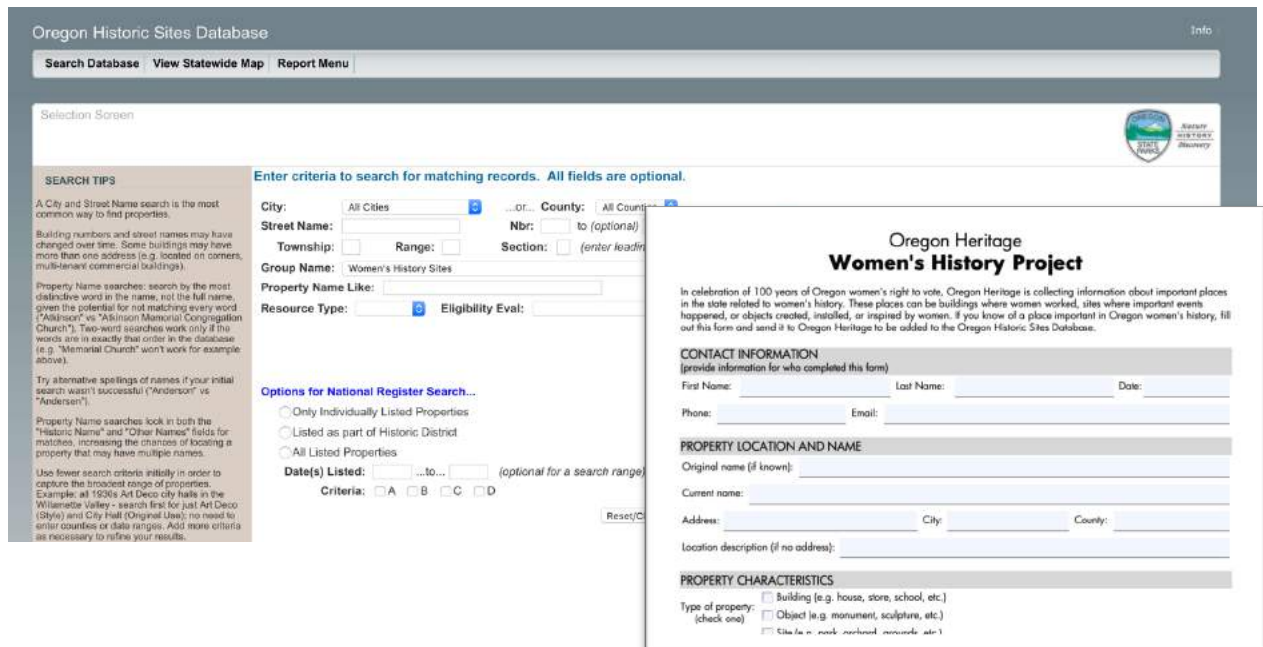


Figure 6: The Oregon Historic Sites Database (see Women’s History Sites under “Group Name”) and the Women’s History Project form. Source: Oregon SHPO.

The Oregon Historic Sites Database serves as the SHPOs official public-facing database. The database is a list of sites that have been surveyed by the SHPO or those in the National Register.<sup>60</sup> Each site has a “Site Information” form that

<sup>60</sup> “Historic Places,” Oregon Parks & Recreation Department: Oregon Heritage: Historic Places (State of Oregon), accessed June 8, 2019, <https://www.oregon.gov/OPRD/HCD/HSTPLCS/Pages/index.aspx>.

includes location and property name(s), property characteristics, survey and thematic groupings, and SHPO information (including, for example, any Section 106 determinations or federal tax projects). Each form can also include additional architectural descriptions and property history and links to the National Register nominations and HABS/HAER/HALS documentation. Not all information available on a specific site is included in the database.

Since its inception, the Oregon Women's History Project has predominantly relied on public participation.<sup>61</sup> The public-facing SHPO website instructs that if the property is already in the database, an email can be sent and if it meets "the basic criteria" it will be added to the database group. For those not already in the database, a "Women's History Project Form" must be submitted.<sup>62</sup> New sites must be "associated with important women from Oregon's past or have a distinct focus on women or women's issues, including places where women worked, schooled, socialized, etc."<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> Roger Roper, "Oregon Women's History Project," blog, *Oregon Heritage Exchange* (blog) (Oregon Heritage, May 18, 2012), <https://oregonheritage.wordpress.com/2012/05/18/oregon-womens-history-project/>.

<sup>62</sup> "Oregon Heritage Women's History Project" (Salem: Women's History Project, Oregon Heritage, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 2012).

<sup>63</sup> "Oregon Women's History," accessed June 8, 2019, <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/hcd/hstplcs/pages/womenhist.aspx>.

## **Evaluation of the Women's History Sites Group**

The Women's History Sites group in the Oregon Historic Sites database was evaluated from January to April 2019. The group was evaluated to understand what sites had already been flagged and to determine the most common typologies. The sites were evaluated by what information was public-facing and in each respective sites' database listing. The sites with the most comprehensive information were those with attached National Register nominations. A small number of sites also had brief notes on why they were flagged in the Women's History Sites group. Contrary to those listed in the National Register, the majority of the sites, especially those in rural communities, appear to have been flagged during surveys in the 1980s and have minimal information attached. All sites were added to the group in 2012.

### **Typologies**

The following list highlights the typologies of the forty-two women's history sites in the group. Highlighting the most common typologies provides a more comprehensive view of what types of resources, if any, were targeted and which ones were not.

- The most popular typology of women's history sites is civic institutions. There is a total of sixteen sites.
  - Five are listed in the National Register (two individually, two as part of a district nomination, and one both individually and as a district).
- The next most-popular typology is educational institutions. There is a total of ten buildings.
  - Four are individually listed in the National Register.
- Four residential homes are listed.
  - Three are individually listed in the National Register.
- There are three sites, all of which are cemeteries.
  - All are listed in the National Register. One, Portland's Lone Fir Cemetery, is listed individually. The Jacksonville Cemetery is listed as a district. Ashland Cemetery is listed individually and as part of a Multiple Property Designation (MPD).
- One object and one structure have been flagged in the group.
  - Odd Fellows-Rebekah Lodge Sign in Jacksonville is in the group, but its eligibility is "undetermined."
  - The Cedar Crossing Covered Bridge is also in the group but found ineligible/out of period.
- One site is a professional workplace.



- Gaiety Hollow is listed in the National Register individually and within a district.
- There is one farmstead.
  - The Michael and Martha B. Hanley Farmstead is listed in the National Register individually.
- There is one farmhouse.
  - The R C Geer Farmhouse is listed individually.
- One site listed for its significance to industry in Oregon.
  - The Thomas Kay Woolen Mill is listed in the National Register for its architecture and industry significance. It is also the only site with HABS/HAER/HALS documentation.
- The group has one cultural landscape.
  - The Canby Women's Civic Club Maple Trees.
- There is one hotel.
  - The Campbell Court Hotel that briefly served as a women's dorm and boarding school is listed in the National Register individually.
- The group has one comfort station.
  - The Women's Comfort Station in Portland.

## Women's History Significance

The evaluation of the group showed that just six sites were specifically nominated for their association with important Oregonian women or their contribution to women's history. This includes:



*Figure 7: The grounds of Gaiety Hollow. Source: Lord & Schryver Conservancy*  
*Figure 8: Edith Schryver (left) and Elizabeth Lord (right). Source: Lord & Schryver Conservancy.*

### Gaiety Hollow, Salem, OR

Listed specifically for its association with Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver, the first women landscape architects in the Pacific Northwest to own and operate their firm. Gaiety Hollow operated as their home, studio, and "tour de force" of their work.<sup>64</sup>

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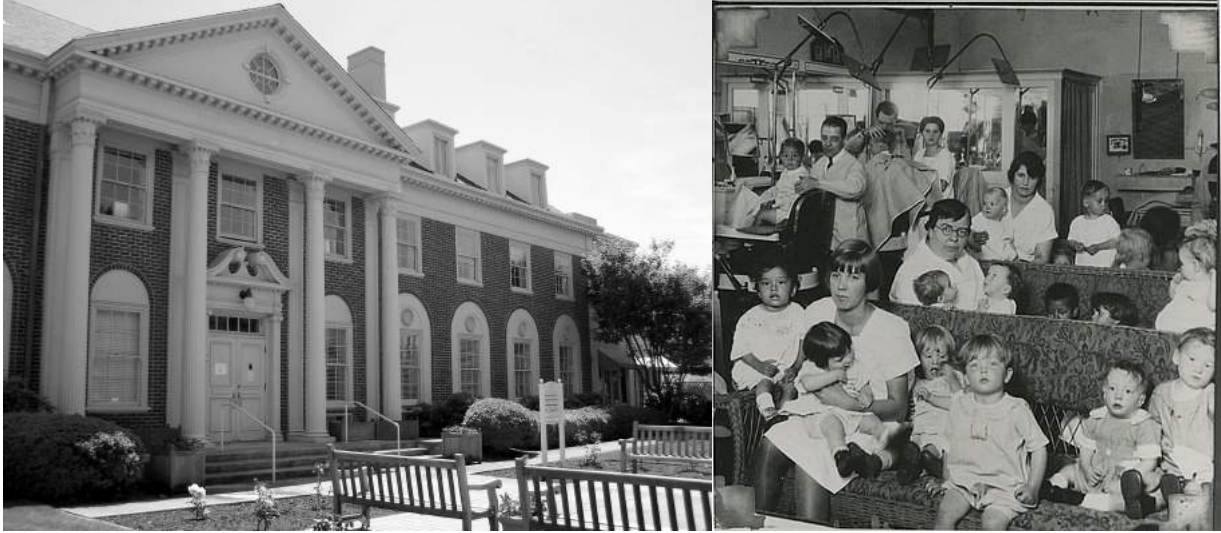
<sup>64</sup> "About Us," Lord & Schryver Conservancy, accessed June 8, 2019, <http://www.lordschryver.org/about-us.html>.



*Figure 9: Gerlinger Hall of the Women's Memorial Quad. Source: University of Oregon.*

University of Oregon Women's Memorial Quad Ensemble, Eugene, OR

In addition to its significance for Criterion C for its association with famed architect Ellis F. Lawrence, the Quad ensemble is significant at the statewide level under Criterion A "as the focus of efforts specifically to further educational opportunities for women students. As a project funded by women and dedicated to their advancement, the memorial building was the center of a movement involving broad solicitation." The Quad also includes famed sculptor A. Phimister Proctor's Pioneer Woman that pays tribute to the heroism and sacrifice of women of the frontier.



*Figure 10: The Albertina Kerr Nursery, now known as Albertina's Place. Source: Albertina Kerr.  
Figure 11: Children in the Albertina Kerr Nursery wait for haircuts, 1927. Source: Oregon Historical Society.*

### Albertina Kerr Nursery, Portland, OR

Listed for its significance under Architecture and Social History. According to its nomination, “the history of Albertina Kerr Nursery was integral to the development of child care in the West, and the building is symbolic of the orphanage type of care.”<sup>65</sup> It should be noted that the nomination equally emphasizes that it is significant for its association to Alexander Kerr and its architecture.

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<sup>65</sup> Sarah Munro, “Kerr (Albertina) Nursery,” National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, National Register No. 79002135, Albertina Kerr Center for Children, Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon, August 29, 1979.



*Figure 12: The Shogren House and its expansive lawn (left). Source: Wikipedia Commons.  
Figure 13: Ann (left) and May (right) Shogren outside their home. Source: Oregon Historical Society.*

### Fred A, May & Ann Shogren House, Portland, OR

Listed under Criterion B for its association with the Shogren Sisters. Sisters May and Ann Shogren were prominent businesswomen in Portland during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Their dressmaking business M & A Shogren was Oregon's most significant fashion house. The sisters operated their business at a time when it was unusual for women to own and manage businesses by themselves. The sisters were also founding members of the Mazamas Mountaineering Club and summited Mount Hood in 1895.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>66</sup> Helen Fedchak, "M & A Shogren," The Oregon Encyclopedia (Oregon Historical Society, March 17, 2018), [https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/ma\\_shogren/#.XPw1ztNKhTZ](https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/ma_shogren/#.XPw1ztNKhTZ).



*Figure 14: The “Castle on the Hill” overlooks downtown Eugene. Source: Shelton McMurphey Johnson House.*

*Figure 15: Alberta McMurphey with husband Robert and their children. Source: Shelton McMurphey Johnson House.*

### Shelton-McMurphey House & Grounds, Eugene, OR

The Shelton-McMurphey House, or the “Castle on the Hill,” is a Victorian Eugene icon. It is listed under Criterion B for its association with Alberta Shelton McMurphey, who was an active community member and who lived here from its construction in 1888 until 1949.



Figure 16: The Dundee Women's Hall Club, know the Dundee Community Center. Source: Dundee Community Center.

Dundee Women's Hall Club, Dundee, OR

The Dundee Woman's Club Hall is listed under National Register Criterion A as a local landmark in the women's suffrage movement and, according to its nomination, for its major role in the social and cultural life of the community to the present day.<sup>67</sup>

A majority of the remaining thirty-six sites have little mention of their significance to women's history in Oregon, and there is substantial room for improvement.

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<sup>67</sup> Marion Brumback, "Dundee Woman's Club Hall," National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, National Register No. 86001241, Dundee Woman's Club, Dundee, Yamhill County, Oregon, May 7, 1986.

## **Women's History Sites Initiatives in Other States**

As previously mentioned, a web review of all fifty SHPO websites was performed to determine if any states had actively initiated the survey, documentation, and/or preservation of women's history sites. Each SHPO website was investigated, including their statewide historic preservation plan(s) if posted. The websites and plans were examined not only for mention of women's history sites but "underrepresented communities" as well. If neither the websites nor state historic preservation plan mentioned women's history sites, the state was considered for the scope of this project not to have a public-facing women's history sites initiative. For SHPO initiatives that were located, the following criteria were applied:

### ***Initiative Evaluation Criteria***

- Was an initiative or mention of women's history sites found via a public-facing website?
  - Is there an initiative specifically for nominating National Register properties?
  - Historic context statement?
  - Multiple Property Submissions?
  - Highway Marker programs?
  - A group in the state's site database?



- Digital tours and maps?
- Print resources, like published books, manuscripts, teaching guides, tour books?
- Crowdsourcing campaigns? Does it give the public information on how to contribute?
- Bibliographies and research materials?
- A dedicated website for women's history sites?
- Oral histories, video, and other multimedia?
- Is there any mention of surveying, documenting, and preserving women's history sites in the state historic preservation plan?

Each criterion was worth one point. Those with no discernable initiative were grouped under Group C: Opportunity States. Those with 1 - 4 points were designated Group B: Active States and those above 5 points were designated Group A: Model States.

An analysis of other states' women's history sites initiatives highlights the current standing of the gender debate within the historic preservation community; the topic of gender is prevalent among the minority, not the majority.

## Results

The evaluation of all fifty SHPO websites (not including territories) concluded that Oregon is in the “active states” category. Oregon should be applauded for having an initiative; only fourteen other states have women’s history sites initiatives of some caliber. Some, like Georgia’s Women’s History Initiative, are explicitly aimed towards increasing the number of women’s history sites represented in the National Register. Others include a range of historical contexts to highway marker programs to digital maps. A detailed table of all initiatives is located in the appendix.

As a result of the evaluation, states were divided into three broadly-defined groups:

**Group A: “Model states.”** These states have comprehensive public-facing initiatives in place and are ideal examples for Oregon to emulate.

- Criteria: These states and their initiatives show comprehensive efforts to actively survey, document, interpret, and/or preserve historic sites that pertain to women’s history.
- These initiatives are public facing and easy to use, and some crowdsource for additional information.
- Some initiatives use statewide preservation tools, like a state historic register and state incentives, in addition to federal tools.

- Ex: Georgia, Montana, New Jersey, Colorado

**Group B: "Active states."** This group has some women's history sites initiative in place.

- Criteria: These states and their initiatives show an effort to actively survey, document, interpret, and/or preserve historic sites that pertain to women's history.
- These initiatives are public facing. Some are easy to find; others may be hidden and harder to find.
- Group B initiatives have at least one program in place.
- Ex: Massachusetts, New Mexico, Oregon, Florida, Maryland, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, Connecticut

**Group C: "Opportunity states."** This group includes the remaining states that do not have a discernible public-facing women's history sites initiative in place.

- Criteria: These states do not have a discernible public-facing initiative that seeks to actively survey, document, interpret, and/or preserve historic sites that pertain to women's history.

- While there is no known initiative in place, these states can still have individual designations in place through traditional federal tools like the National Register.
- They do not show the use of alternative interpretation tools like digital maps or collaborations with other groups for women's history sites.
- Some states, like California, have closed state databases that are not accessible to the public. An initiative could not be located.
- It should also be noted that some states, like Alaska, California, District of Columbia, Ohio, and Virginia mention the need for focusing on underrepresented communities and/or women's history sites but do not mention a particular initiative.
- Ex: Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

### **Model States**

Georgia, Montana, and New Jersey have comprehensive initiatives that should be looked at as models.

**Georgia** should be looked at as a model for increasing the number and breadth of National Register properties. In 1995, Georgia's SHPO, the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, became the first to commission an initiative for the identification, documentation, and evaluation of historic properties related to women's history.<sup>68</sup> The mission of the Women's History Initiative is to integrate women's history and historic preservation into the state's existing programs through the following efforts:

1. "Actively seeking to identify and document historic places associated with women in Georgia — including specific places that are associated with a particular woman or event as well as resources that collectively reflect broad themes associated with the roles of women in the state's history;
2. Reinterpreting historic places already identified in Georgia based upon a better understanding of women's history;
3. Promoting the awareness, appreciation, and preservation of historic places associated with women in Georgia through publications, heritage education programs, and guided tours that will increase public awareness."<sup>69</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> Gail Lee Dubrow, "Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation: Recent Developments in Scholarship and Public Historical Practice," 11.

<sup>69</sup> Leslie N. Sharp, "Finding Her Place: Integrating Women's History into Historic Preservation in Georgia," 264-265.

In "Finding Her Place: Integrating Women's History into Historic Preservation in Georgia" in *Restoring Women's History through Historic Preservation*, Leslie N. Sharp, Georgia's former National Register coordinator, outlines how the state established a need and developed the initiative. The first major project of the initiative was a regional conference on women's history and historic preservation. Held in 1996, the conference brought together twelve scholars and over one hundred multidisciplinary participants. The conference resulted in a call-to-action for "greater activity in and awareness of preserving women-related places."<sup>70</sup>

Participants stressed that the lack of a women's historical theme in the Georgia Historic Resources Survey and the lack of women's history in the National Register's area of significance emphasized that gender was rarely considered when evaluating historic resources.

As a result of the conference, the HPD began to develop a historical context for women's history sites. A context identifies resource types, themes, geographical areas, and periods of significance that serve as a framework for identifying, evaluating, and preserving historic sites.<sup>71</sup> In 1998, after two years of attempting to

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<sup>70</sup> Ibid., 275.

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

fund the project, the Georgia legislature appropriated funding for the project and a consulting team led by Darlene Roth & Associates began. The project was completed in 2001 and resulted in:

- A narrative history of Georgia women;
- A review of the literature on women's history and historic preservation;
- Biographical sketches of notable Georgia women;
- Special focus studies on Georgia kitchens and landscapes;
- Lists of women-related historic places listed in the National Register and recognized by the Georgia Historical Marker program;
- A discussion of resources typologies associated with Georgia women;
- Results of a survey about the interpretation of women's history in Georgia's historical societies and historic house museums;
- Results from an evaluation of the Georgia Historic Resources Survey (the state's ongoing survey program of historic buildings and structures);<sup>72</sup>
- A discussion of the process and challenges of the National Register program;
- Concrete recommendations for the next phases of the Georgia Women's History Initiative.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid., 276.

In 2001 the next phase of the project began that incorporated previous recommendations. The main focus was to produce a two-volume manuscript that included the research from the context study, papers from the 1996 conference, and other works relating to Georgia women and historic preservation. Additionally, it resulted in MPS for three historic women architects, three National Register nominations, and a NHL nomination.<sup>74</sup>

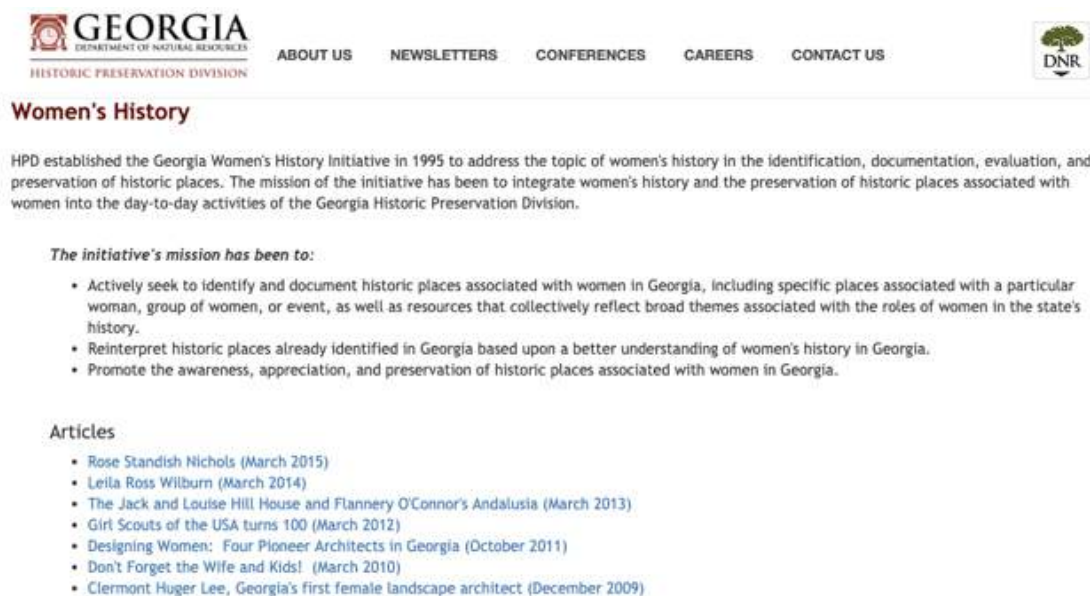


Figure 17: Screenshot of Georgia's Women's History Initiative website. Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

The project led to the integration of women's history within HPD planning and now serves as an essential resource for professionals and HPD staff. Furthermore, the gradual steps Georgia pursued in starting their initiative serves as an ideal model

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<sup>74</sup> *Ibid.*, 279.



for Oregon. As Page Putnam Miller states, "In the field of preservation the progression from preparing a review of the historical context to the actual identification and preservation of structures and then to the development of an interpretive program is long, difficult, and complex. Yet it is unrealistic to dream of more public historic sites associated with women without being cognizant of the difficult road ahead."<sup>75</sup> Early involvement with the historic preservation professional community and an extensive planning document led to an integrated and sustainable initiative. Today, the initiative continues and can serve as a model for all states.

**Montana** is a prime model for alternative approaches and what a collaboration with other stakeholders (for example, the Oregon Historical Society) could emulate. In Montana, the SHPO is one of five core programs under the Montana Historical Society (MHS) in comparison to most SHPOs that fall under Parks and Recreation or Natural and Cultural Resources.<sup>76</sup> In 2014, the MHS created the Women's History Matters website as part of a commemoration of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Montana. The website houses information on historic sites associated

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<sup>75</sup> Page Putnam Miller, "Landmarks of Women's History," essay, in *Reclaiming the Past: Landmarks of Women's History*, ed. Page Putnam Miller (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992), pp. 1-26, 23.

<sup>76</sup> "About Historic Preservation," Montana.gov (Montana Historical Society), accessed June 8, 2019, <https://mhs.mt.gov/Shpo/About>.

with Montana women, which includes an interactive map, photographs, and historical information. There are also multiple walking tours, including a Butte Red Light District Walking Tour. Also, the website has a substantial collection of women's history resources:<sup>77</sup>

- Bibliographies of manuscript collections
- Oral histories and other primary resources, including military enlistment records, diaries and letters, photographs, prison records, radio interviews, and cookbooks
- Government documents, pamphlets, magazine articles
- Interactive maps, videos, and DVDs
- 130+ articles published in *Montana The Magazine of Western History*
- Educator resources, including lesson plans
- The Montana Women's Legal History Timeline, a timeline that traces changes to Montana territorial and state laws that particularly impacted women, from property rights to definitions of sexual assault
- *Beyond Schoolmarms and Madams: Montana Women's Stories*, published by the Montana Historical Society Press in April 2016.

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<sup>77</sup> "Women's History Matters," Women's History Matters (Montana Historical Society, 2014), <http://montanawomenshistory.org/>.



Figure 18: Screenshot of the Montana Women's History Matters website, accessed through the Montana Historical Society website. Source: Montana Historical Society.

Figure 19: Beyond Schoolmarm and Madams: Montana Women's Stories, published by MHS in 2016. Source: Montana Historical Society.

These resources offer a wide range of primary and secondary sources for in-depth documentation of women's history sites. They provide examples of what sources could be available and that through a collaboration — in this case, a historical society — public dissemination of women's history sites can be done.

**New Jersey** is an impressive example of what a long-term initiative with dedicated resources and stakeholders can do. The initiative, the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail, was a result of a collaboration between the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation, the New Jersey SHPO, and Preservation New Jersey after they helped organize the first conference on women and historic preservation in 1994. Similarly, to Georgia,

the groups saw the need to tell the story of the important contributions of New Jersey women through historic sites. In 1999 legislation provided funding to begin research to identify historic sites associated with New Jersey women. In 2000, with additional funding from the New Jersey SHPO and support from the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation and Women's Project of New Jersey, the initiative was kickstarted, and a historic preservation consulting firm was hired to carry out the initiative. Finishing just before Georgia, New Jersey became the first state in the country to undertake a comprehensive statewide survey of women's historic sites.<sup>78</sup>

The Women's Heritage Trail Initiative resulted in a variety of planning tools, site designations, and public resources. The initial historical context study led to a reconnaissance-level survey (RLS) of 300+ sites, including non-extant sites, those with limited integrity, archaeological sites, and those already on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. One hundred fifty of those sites were further investigated through an intensive-level survey (ILS) to determine if any were eligible for either register. Select sites from the RLS and ILS were then incorporated into the *New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail book*. The initiative continues today through the

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<sup>78</sup> "New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail," New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Historic Preservation Office (State of New Jersey, April 24, 2019), <https://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/whtrail2.htm>.

New Jersey Historic Preservation Office's public crowdsourcing for additional women's history sites.



Figure 20: The Margaret Bourke-White Home, a private residence, is detailed in the New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail book, published by the New Jersey SHPO. Source: New Jersey Historic Preservation Office.

New Jersey provides an extensive model of what an in-depth initiative can lead to. Similarly to Georgia, it also shows the progression from community engagement and conferences to legislative funding to consultants to understanding what women's history sites exist to creating statewide planning tools to disseminating the information to the public. Combined, Georgia, Montana, and New Jersey are three states that Oregon and the rest of the country should look to as deliberate and successful models for women's history initiatives.

Lastly, **Colorado** is an ideal model for what a new initiative can look like. The Preservation Planning Unit at History Colorado began the Colorado Diversity

Initiative in 2016. The project is aimed at discovering places associated with Colorado's diverse heritage. The goal of the initiative is to not only gather information about important sites connected to Colorado women, but also people and events in Colorado's African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQ, and Urban Native American history. Early in its development, the initiative incorporates crowdsourcing and digital documentation. A Google Form embedded on the leading site for the initiative allows the public to quickly and easily send information on a site that not only pertains to women's history.<sup>79</sup> A Historypin map, further highlighted in Chapter 4, allows the public to input information on sites and interact with various maps and that have been flagged by staff and other members of the public. These two components allow for a wide variety of public input; with a young initiative, it eliminates the need for constant database updates and instead uses crowdsourcing for data gathering. The state's 2020 historic preservation plan, "The Power of Heritage and Place: A 2020 Action Plan to Advance Preservation in Colorado" acknowledges the need for historical contexts to further the initiative and preservation in the state; "Women's

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<sup>79</sup> Stephanie Wolf, "To Tell Fuller Story Of Colorado, Historians Turn To Crowdsourcing," Colorado Public Radio, July 6, 2016, <https://www.cpr.org/news/story/tell-fuller-story-colorado-historians-turn-crowdsourcing>.

Rights Resources” is flagged as a top priority under “Select Historic Context  
Priorities... Threatened and Under-represented Resources Types.”<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> “State Preservation Plan,” History Colorado (Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation), accessed June 8, 2019, <https://www.historycolorado.org/state-preservation-plan>.

## **CHAPTER 4: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING WOMEN'S HISTORY SITES IN OREGON**



## **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are not only for SHPO but also for the Oregon preservation community and the community at large. While the recommendations are broadly listed in order of attainable steps to more complex issues, they are by no means meant to be followed sequentially. These recommendations are a culmination of various ideas from the author and actions taken by other states for their women's history initiatives that seem applicable to Oregon. All are aimed at elevating Oregon's standings among other states and closer to a comprehensive understanding of all its citizens.

### ***1. Update the Women's History Group to a more current standing***

First, the Women's History Group should be updated to its most current standing. Although not comprehensive, the following sites are those already identified in the database that had an identifiable women's history component discovered through this project. While SHPO staff is responsible for updating the database, a copy of the database could be obtained from the office and the following sites updated via a volunteer, intern, or student.

The following list should be added to the group:

David T. and Nan Wood Honeyman House, Portland, OR (National Register individual)

- For its association with Nan Honeyman, the first woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Oregon.

Lithia Park, Ashland, OR (National Register individual)

- For its association with the Ashland Women's Civic Improvement Club that kickstarted the movement to create the park. The Clubhouse is already included in the group, but it should be noted that Lithia Park owes much of its beginning to the women's club.

Emil Peil & Alice Applegate House, Ashland, OR (National Register individual and district)

- The house is nominated under Criterion B for its association with Alice Applegate. The house "successfully evokes its historically significant association with noted educator, civic and cultural leader Alice Applegate Peil."<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> George Kramer, "Peil, Emil and Alice Applegate, House," National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, National Register No. 92000062, Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon, February 20, 1992.

### Fort Clatsop (National Historic Park)

- For its association with Sacagawea, a Lemhi Shoshone woman best known for joining and aiding Lewis and Clark on their expedition to the Pacific Northwest. In 1805 the expedition reached the Pacific Ocean and constructed Fort Clatsop, staying until March 1806.<sup>82</sup>
- Local Tribal Historic Preservation Offices should be consulted on this site and others most associated with Sacagawea.

### Billy Webb Elks Club (previously Williams Avenue Branch YWCA), Portland, OR

- See Recommendation #3 for new National Register nominations
- For its association as the previous Williams Avenue Branch YMCA, a key historical landmark for the Albina African American community.

### Timberline Lodge, Government Camp, OR (NHL)

- See Recommendation #4 for proposed amendments
- For its association with renowned landscape architect Barbara Fealy and designer Margery Hoffman Smith

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<sup>82</sup> Teresa Potter, "Sacagawea," National Women's History Museum, 2018, <https://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/sacagawea>.

## Women's Realty Board Demonstration House, Portland, OR

- As per the 2018 Eastmoreland Historic District nomination, “the WRB Demonstration House [Women’s Realty Board Demonstration House] is perhaps one of the most significant of the model homes to be built in Eastmoreland, as it conveys how a group of Portlanders were in the vanguard of advancing the role of women in the profession of real estate while also advocating for home ownership and the use of sound construction materials.”
- The 2018 Eastmoreland Historic District nomination contains substantial information on the Women’s Realty Board and the advancement of women in professions in Oregon during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and should be consulted.<sup>83</sup>

## ***2. Complete citywide and statewide historic resource surveys for women’s history sites***

According to SHPO, a historic resource survey is the process of collecting and recording information about historic resources through research, fieldwork, and reporting. Afterward, resources are listed in the statewide database and applicable

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<sup>83</sup> Ranzetta, Kirk, Shoshana Jones, Patience Stuart, Brandon Grilc, Tom Hubka, Judith Kenny, Joanne Carlson, Chelly Wentworth, Rod Merrick, Meg Merrick, Marlene Burns. “Eastmoreland Historic District.” National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. May 8, 2017.

local government inventories. Eligible resources are flagged and potentially pursued for National Register listing.

Citywide and statewide historic resource surveys should be funded and completed to gain a better understanding of what women's history resources exist in Oregon. Survey(s) provide an essential first step in the identification and evaluation of resources and should not be overlooked. A statewide survey is of the highest priority. Any citywide surveys undertaken should be integrated into the statewide survey. All survey(s) should follow the Oregon SHPOs *Guidelines for Historic Resource Surveys in Oregon*.<sup>84</sup>

With the acknowledgment that surveys are virtually unattainable without funding, crowdsourcing should not be overlooked and could be reached through less funding. Colorado's Heritage Diversity Initiative provides two examples for collecting public insight on potential sites that should be looked at in place of a paper form. A Google Form embedded on the leading site for the initiative allows for the public to quickly and easily send information on a site that not only pertains to women's history but also Colorado's African American, Asian American/Pacific

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<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

Islander, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQ, and Urban Native American history.<sup>85</sup> The initiative also links to a Historypin site for further crowdsourcing. Historypin, further explained in Recommendation #9, could be used not only for crowdsourcing potential sites but also for digital documentation purposes.

Lastly, New Jersey provides a great example of a successful series of surveys. The New Jersey Historic Preservation Office hired a consulting firm to compile an inventory of 300 women's history sites that met the following criteria:

- *The site has an association with a historical event or activity that reflects the broad patterns of women's lives in New Jersey before 1960; or*
- *The site has an association with a particular woman who had an impact on New Jersey, or the state had an impact on her life, during her residency or period of noteworthy accomplishment, which occurred before 1960.*

Notably, the inventory also included sites that were no longer extant, those with little remaining integrity, archaeological sites, and those already listed in the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic places for significance other than women's history.<sup>86</sup> After the broad reconnaissance-level survey was completed, 150

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<sup>85</sup> "Heritage Diversity Initiative," History Colorado (Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation), accessed June 8, 2019, <https://www.historycolorado.org/heritage-diversity-initiative>.

<sup>86</sup> "Women's History Initiative," New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Historic Preservation Office, April 4, 2019, <https://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/wht.htm>.

identified resources were further explored in an intensive-level survey to determine if they were eligible for National Register listing. According to the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, the list will serve as a guide for future nominations and is an ideal example of the benefits of performing a statewide survey.<sup>87</sup>

### ***3. Designate city landmarks and National Register properties***

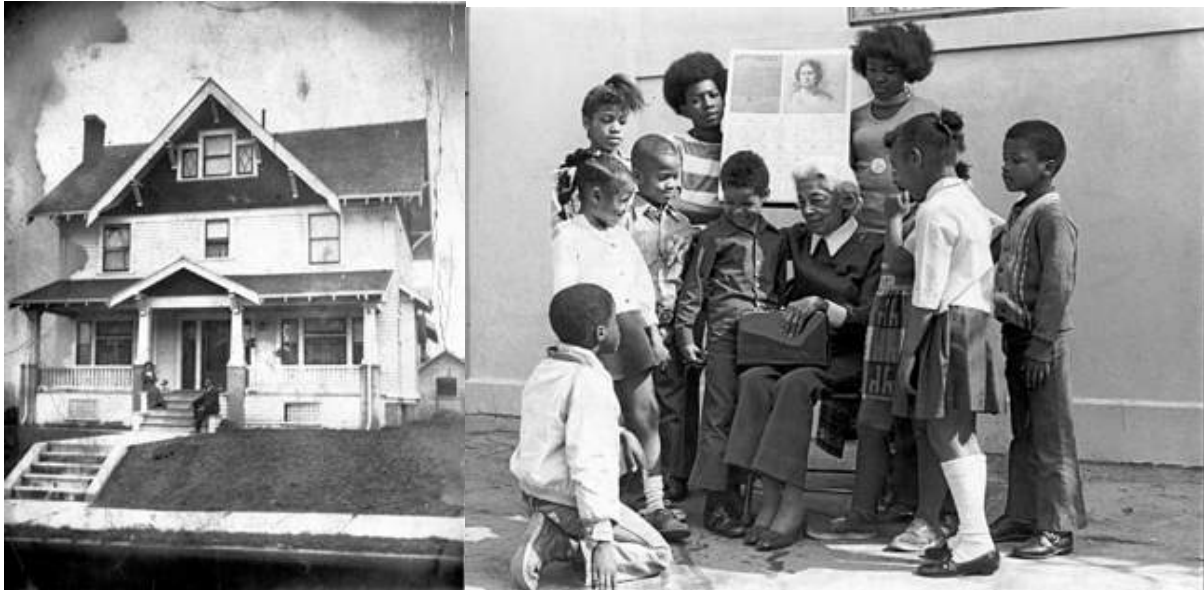
As seen by New Jersey's example, historic resource surveys can provide insight on additional sites eligible for landmarking. With only six identified sites nominated for women's history significance, it is evident that there need to be more sites nominated and designated. The Oregon SHPO should provide funding and guidance for interested parties that wish to pursue these nominations.

Preservation consultant and historians should be brought on board, as should educational institutions and groups. Undergraduate and graduate level students in historic preservation, history, and women, gender, and sexuality studies should also be tapped, as their enthusiasm can be useful.

Through this process, two sites have been identified as potential National Register-eligible properties. These properties should be investigated further.

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<sup>87</sup> Ibid.



*Figure 21: Beatrice Morrow Cannady and her husband outside their home. Source: Oregon Historical Society.*

*Figure 22: Cannady with schoolchildren. Source: Oregon Historical Society.*

Beatrice Morrow Cannady House, 2516 NE 26th Ave, Portland, OR (National Historic district)

Beatrice Morrow Cannady was the most noted civil rights activist in early twentieth-century Oregon. The Oregon Historical Society has extensive information available on Cannady and should be consulted for additional research. Quintard Taylor in the *Oregon Encyclopedia* highlights Morrow Cannady's many achievements, including but not limited to:

- "Using her position as editor of the *Advocate*, Oregon's largest, and at times the only, African American newspaper, Cannady launched numerous efforts



to defend the civil rights of the approximately 2,500 African Americans in the state (in 1930) and to challenge racial discrimination in its varied forms.

- In 1922, at the age of thirty-three, Cannady became the first African American woman to graduate from Northwestern College of Law in Portland. She was one of only two women in a class of twenty-two.
- Two years after joining the Advocate, Cannady became a founding member of the Portland NAACP.
- Maintaining a collection of over three hundred volumes on African American history and literature, as well as a complete file of leading civil rights organization publications such as the NAACP's Crisis magazine, Cannady transformed her living room into a reading and lending library about African Americans."<sup>88</sup>

In addition to transforming her living room into a library for Portland's African American community, Cannady was also known for inviting community members of all races and ethnicities into her home for tea and conversation. Today, her home remains a private residence and is located in the Irvington Historic District. The home could also be eligible for an individual listing in the National Register under

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<sup>88</sup> Quintard Taylor, "Beatrice Morrow Cannady (1889 - 1974)," The Oregon Encyclopedia (Oregon Historical Society, March 17, 2018), [https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/cannady\\_beatrice\\_morrow/#.XPw\\_CtNKhTZ](https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/cannady_beatrice_morrow/#.XPw_CtNKhTZ).

Criterion B for its association with Beatrice Morrow Cannady and her home-based community activism. Additionally, it could also be nominated in conjunction with the *African Americans in Portland MPD* that is currently underway. It should be noted that owner consent will be a deciding factor.



*Figure 23: The Williams Avenue YWCA, circa 1950s. Source: Oregon Historical Society*

Williams Avenue Branch YWCA, 6 N Tillamook St, Portland, OR

The Williams Avenue Branch YWCA (now known as the Billy Webb Elks Club) has been a key historical landmark for the Albina African American community since its construction in 1926. Fred Leesen highlights some of the buildings varied history in the Oregon Encyclopedia:

- “Designed by the Portland architectural firm of DeYoung and Roald, the structure was completed in 1926 as a project of the Portland YWCA.
- The building replaced a temporary structure that since 1921 had housed the YWCA's first effort to reach out to Portland's small African American community. It was referred to as the 'Colored YWCA.'
- In 1942, the YWCA allowed the building to be used by the United Service Organizations (USO) as a music and recreation site for minority soldiers in Portland. It was returned to YWCA use in 1947. Following the Vanport flood in 1948, which wiped out housing for many African Americans who come to Portland during the war, the building served as a Red Cross emergency center, and clearinghouse, where relatives separated by the flood, could be reunited with their families.
- During the 1950s, in addition to housing YWCA activities, many groups used the building for meetings, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Oregon Association of Colored Women, the Urban League, and the Congress of Racial Equality.
- After the passage of the Oregon Public Accommodations Law in 1953—which outlawed racial discrimination in housing, recreation, and amusement sites, restaurants, and bars—and the completion of a new YWCA headquarters

downtown in 1959, the YWCA sold the Williams Avenue branch to the Billy Webb Elks."<sup>89</sup>

The property was reported as "one of the most significant African American historic buildings in the Pacific Northwest" by Cathy Galbraith, former Executive Director of the Bosco-Milligan Foundation.<sup>90</sup> In their database, SHPO notes that a draft context was prepared by a local historian, Raymond Burrell who is interested in submitting a nomination in conjunction with the African Americans in Portland MPD. Besides the Women's History Sites group, the site is also included under the Thematic Grouping of African Americans in Oregon, 2014. The building could be potentially eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion A and could be nominated in conjunction with the MPD if pursued.

#### ***4. Re-evaluate and amend existing listings***

A strategy for re-evaluating existing listings via National Register amendments should be developed. Many listings, especially short ones from decades past, omit significant portions of a site's history. As discussed in Chapter 2, documentation of women occupants is particularly spotty, and their stories are especially susceptible.

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<sup>89</sup> Fred Leeson, "Billy Webb Elks Lodge," The Oregon Encyclopedia (Oregon Historical Society, March 17, 2018), [https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/billy\\_webb\\_elks\\_lodge/#.XPw\\_b9NKhTZ](https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/billy_webb_elks_lodge/#.XPw_b9NKhTZ).

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

Amendments are common undertakings and should be utilized so the history of the site is updated and comprehensive.

Two sites were identified during this research as potential amendment candidates. Additional research should be undertaken.



*Figure 24: Generations of women at the Thomas Kay Woolen Mill. Source: Willamette Heritage Center.*

Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, 1313 Mill St SE, Salem, OR (National Register individual)

According to the Oregon SHPO, at one time, one in five non-agricultural laborers in Salem worked at the mill, and a large portion were women. They sorted and prepared the woollens that would be recycled and were the primary blanket makers. Blankets were a significant product throughout the mill's history and of particular value during World War I and World War II when they made blankets for Allied troops.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> "Oregon Women's History," Oregon Parks & Recreation Department: Oregon Heritage: Historic Places (State of Oregon), accessed June 8, 2019, <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/hcd/hstplcs/pages/womenhist.aspx>.

The Willamette Heritage Center and Oregon Historical Society house extensive oral histories and additional information on the women workers and should be consulted.<sup>92</sup>

Timberline Lodge, 27500 E Timberline Road, Government Camp, OR (NHL)

Timberline Lodge, a Works Progress Administration project on Mount Hood and one of Oregon's most famous icons, has a hidden history of women designers.

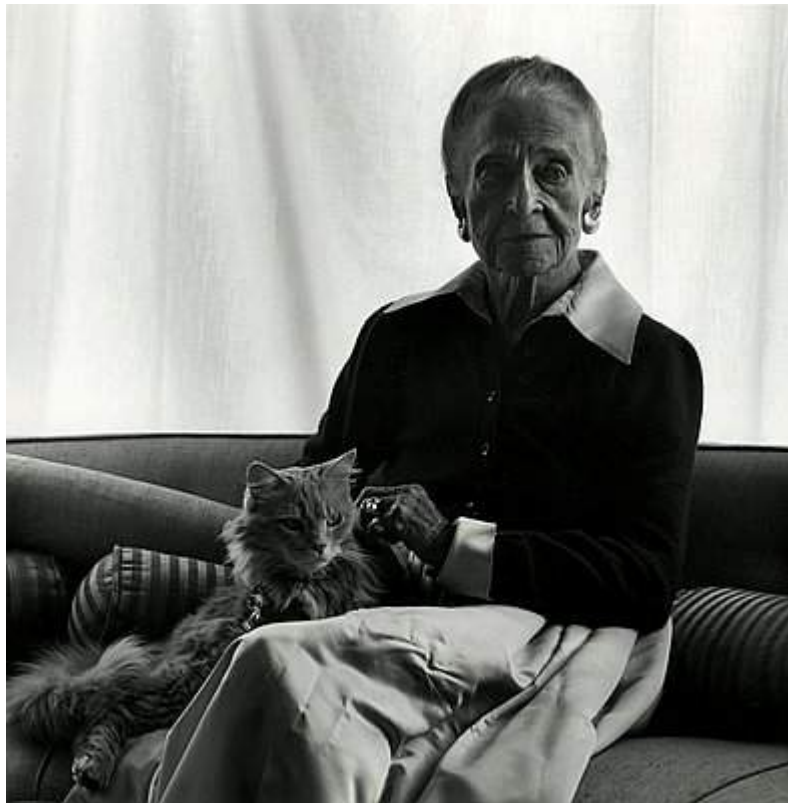


*Figure 25: By the 1970s, most of the original Timberline textiles had deteriorated. Between 1975-1977, more than 4,000 yards of fabric and 100 rugs were recreated by craftspeople using the same traditional skills as WPA artists. Source: Timberline Lodge.*

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<sup>92</sup> "Dora Lehman Barnes - Oral History & Teenagers," Willamette Heritage Center, June 29, 2017, <https://www.willametteheritage.org/dora-lehman-barnes-oral-history-teenagers/>.

Barbara Vorse Fealy was a renowned landscape architect who mainly worked in the Pacific Northwest. In 1985, Fealy was elected a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the first women in Oregon to do so. In addition to Timberline Lodge, she was most notable for her work on the landscape design of Salishan Lodge. In 1987-1990, Friends of Timberline launched the Landscape Project and commissioned Barbara Fealy to create a design with native materials, blending the barren foundation of the Wy' East Lodge and Timberline to the mountain's natural beauty.<sup>93</sup>



*Figure 26: Margery Hoffman Smith, by Marian Wood Kolisch. Source: Oregon Historical Society.*

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<sup>93</sup> "History and Projects of Friends of Timberline," Friends of Timberline, May 30, 2014, <http://www.friendsoftimberline.org/history/>.

Margery Hoffman Smith, a painter, and interior designer has been dubbed the "grande dame of arts and crafts" and a prominent figure in the art community in Portland and San Francisco. She is best known for her work at Timberline Lodge. According to the Oregon Encyclopedia, "as assistant state director of the Federal Art Project, she was in charge of the handcrafted furnishings that were made for the lodge. She worked with the woodworking and metal shops to design and execute furniture and wrought-iron furnishings for the interior. Under her supervision, dressmakers on the Women's and Professional Project created hand-appliquéd draperies, hand-woven upholstery and draperies, and hand-hooked rugs for the public areas and guestrooms. She also commissioned or selected oil paintings, watercolors, hand-colored lithographs, opus sectile glass murals, and carved and painted linoleum murals to decorate the lodge."<sup>94</sup>

### ***5. Commission a statewide historic context statement***

Historic contexts provide information about the historical patterns and trends that produced individual properties. They also serve as the "foundation for decisions about the identification, evaluation, registration, and treatment of historic

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<sup>94</sup> Sarah Munro, "Margery Hoffman Smith (1888-1981)," The Oregon Encyclopedia (Oregon Historical Society, March 14, 2019), [https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/smith\\_margery\\_hoffman\\_1888\\_1981\\_/#.XPxAntNKhTZ](https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/smith_margery_hoffman_1888_1981_/#.XPxAntNKhTZ).



properties."<sup>95</sup> Since many women's history sites require more complex investigation due to a lack of documentation, a statewide historic context statement of women's history sites in Oregon should be commissioned to make it easier to designate sites in the future. Also, regional and local historical contexts should not be overlooked as they can contribute to a broader, more complex context.

Historians like Jennifer B. Goodman suggest looking at the 1992 Women's History Landmark Project and *Reclaiming the Past* as models for how to develop a historical context for assessing historic resources on a local level. Resources like bibliographies from Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability are exceptionally extensive, and contexts like the *Citywide Historic Context Statement for LGBTQ History in San Francisco* and those produced by Georgia and New Jersey SHPOs one can also be useful. The Oregon Historical Society, among other groups, can also be of assistance for kickstarting the framework.

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<sup>95</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, *Guidelines for Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms: How to Complete the National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form* by Antoinette J. Lee, Linda F. McClelland, and Carol D. Schull. Washington, D.C. 1991, <https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/nrb16b.pdf>, 8.

## **6. Expand themes**

The current makeup of sites in the Women's History Sites group shows that there is significant room for improvement when it comes to categories of interest for additional sites.

Colorado's Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation has a "Directory of Women's History Sites in the Colorado State Register of Historic Places" that serves as a useful guide for themes. While the print directory will be discussed in more detail in the following recommendation, its themes can be examples for a broader range of topics to explore:

- Agriculture and Settlement
- Education
- Public Policy
- Community Service
- Business and Professional
- Labor and Industry
- Arts and Literature
- Society
- The Darker Side — Prostitution, Prohibition, and Vice

Since women's history sites are not mutually exclusive, expanding the typologies of women's history sites will create a more rounded view of resources.

### ***7. Bring in other stakeholders and collaborators***

The introduction of more stakeholders and collaborators could strengthen the initiative. States like Montana and New Jersey show the potential of a collaboration between educational institutions, women's groups, and historical societies.

Collaborations with the Oregon Historical Society, the Oregon Women's History Consortium, Travel Oregon, state university historic preservation, history, and women, gender, and sexuality studies programs, among others, could provide research assistance, volunteers, and enthusiasm. A dialogue with state THPOs should also be instituted — are there important tribal women that can be included in the narrative?

On a similar level, partnerships with other communities should be strengthened. As Goodman explains, alliances between Latinos, LGBTQ, African Americans, Asian Americans, and other groups allow for the exchange of information about “difficult cultural historic preservation issues” and how to strengthen it.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>96</sup> Jennifer B. Goodman, “Best Practices for Saving Women's Heritage Sites: Nonprofit Case Studies,” 229.

## 8. Introduce digital documentation

Digital documentation can be an excellent tool for the public to experience and learn about a wide range of women's history sites. Even more so, it can serve as a tool or sites that are not eligible for National Register listing, and it can tell the story of sites that are nonextant and are in hard to access areas.

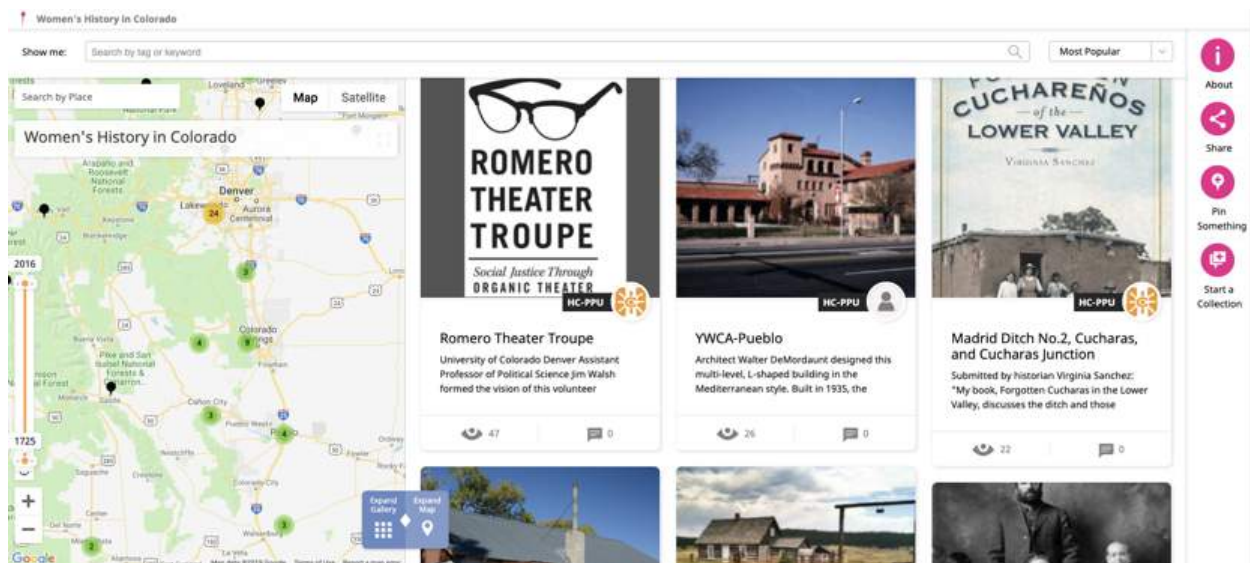


Figure 27: Heritage Colorado's Historypin site that incorporates an interactive map, stories, and sites.  
Source: Historypin.

Colorado, Maryland, New York, and Texas have digital map examples that all use different platforms. Maryland's map uses traditional ArcGIS. New York's Women's Heritage Trail and Texas's Women's History Marker map both use Google Maps. Colorado uses Historypin, which incorporates multiple different maps relating to

African American, Asian American/Pacific Islander, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQ, Women's, and Urban Native American history under the umbrella of the entire Heritage Diversity.<sup>97</sup> Historypin is unique as it is the only digital map that is updated through crowdsourcing rather than data input. As of May 9, 2019, the public has pinned 78 sites that relate to Colorado women's history. Historypin should be further explored for its crowdsourcing abilities.

In addition to designated sites, a digital map could incorporate sites that would typically not be flagged. While they are not eligible for National Register listing, a handful of sites were identified that could contribute to the broader conversation of women's history sites:

Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint, 39210 Historic Columbia River Hwy, Corbett, OR

The Portland Women's Forum consisted of representatives from prominent Portland women's organizations in the mid-twentieth century. The group played a prominent role in preserving the Columbia River Gorge and was responsible for the appointment of the first Columbia Gorge Commission in the 1950s. The group

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<sup>97</sup> "History Colorado - Heritage Diversity," Historypin, April 18, 2016, <https://www.historypin.org/en/person/75043/#pins>.

purchased the viewpoint land with the intent of sharing the vista with generations of visitors. The land was donated to the State of Oregon in 1963, and it is now part of the state park system.<sup>98</sup>

### Helen McCormick and the Willamette National Forest

The U.S. Forest Service has an account of one of the first women employed in the service and should be investigated further:

"There is one account of a woman employed during the First World War as a 'patrolwoman' on the Willamette National Forest: 'Miss Helen McCormick, of Eugene, has been employed to patrol in the Upper McKenzie River country....' Her district will embrace the territory between Blue River village and the Blue River mines [about 10 miles]. She will cover this district on horseback; carrying an emergency camping outfit, to be prepared for the nights which must necessarily be spent along the trail.' These are the only accounts found, thus far, of women employed in field going positions on the national forests in other than a lookout position in these early years."<sup>99</sup>

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<sup>98</sup> "Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint," Oregon State Parks (Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 2019), [https://oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=parkPage.dsp\\_parkHistory&parkId=119](https://oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=parkPage.dsp_parkHistory&parkId=119).

<sup>99</sup> Gerald W. Williams, "Women in the Forest Service," Region 2 - Learning Center (U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service), accessed June 8, 2019, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r2/learning/?cid=stelprdb5360500>.

## Sarah Helmick State Recreation Site, Monmouth, OR

Sarah Helmick was a western pioneer who arrived in Oregon in 1845. She and her husband, Henry, acquired land along the Luckiamute River in the Willamette Valley, where they spent the rest of their lives farming and raising a family. In 1922, Sarah donated five acres of her land to the state. The act was the first land donation of its kind in Oregon and is considered the founding of Oregon State Parks.<sup>100</sup> It remains a recreation site today.

### ***9. Establish a state register with state incentives***

A state register is essential for the most extensive representation of women's history sites. A state register allows for more flexibility, for example, in integrity or National Register criteria. Some of the top states, like New Jersey and Colorado, have state registers to supplement those that are not eligible for National Register. Furthermore, in California, listing or eligibility for listing in the California Register of Historic Places serves as one of the bases for review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and state tax incentives.<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>100</sup> "Sarah Helmick State Recreation Site: Park History," Oregon State Parks (Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, 2019), [https://oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=parkPage.dsp\\_parkHistory&parkId=98](https://oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=parkPage.dsp_parkHistory&parkId=98).

<sup>101</sup> "California Register of Historical Resources," California State Parks, Office of Historic Preservation (State of California, 2019), [http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=21238](http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21238).

## **10. Resources for educators**

As explored earlier, gender bias is prevalent in textbooks across the globe. Montana, specifically, has readily available resources for educators that are easily accessible through the public facing website. While this recommendation may be more in the territory of the Oregon Historical Society, resources for a wide range of ages on women's history sites could aid teachers during field trips, walking tours, and classroom time.

## **11. Create a more robust framework for the initiative**

Above all, this project and its recommendations should be taken into account and applied towards a more robust framework for the Oregon SHPO initiative. The initiative has potential and models it can emulate. Establishing a framework with a definitive purpose, goals, and actions would create structure. Also, introducing a crowdsourcing component and other stakeholders could spread the workload, bring in more public participation, and increase the number and breadth of sites represented.

The framework *must* include a component that addresses the impact of architectural merit and integrity. As previously detailed, the need for a certain level of architectural merit and integrity contributes significantly to the omission of



women's history sites in historic designations. Portland's Kaiser Shipyards and their Child Service Centers offer a unique example of historic sites that have little remaining architectural integrity and that address the need for restructuring the initiative.

### Kaiser Shipyards and the Child Service Centers, Portland, OR

The Kaiser Shipyards were a series of seven major shipbuilding yards located along the American west coast during World War II. Two yards, the Oregonship yard and the Swan Island yard, were located in Portland along the Willamette River. The yards were owned by industrialist Henry J. Kaiser and his Kaiser Shipbuilding Company and played a significant role in reshaping the social, political, and economic trajectory of Portland.



*Figure 28: Aerial of the Oregonship yard near current day St. Johns, circa 1944. Source: Oregon Historical Society.*

During the war, the Kaiser Shipyards produced more ships than any other yard in the country, producing on average one per day. Compared to other yards, Kaiser's ships were completed in two-thirds the time and at a quarter of the cost. This was due to Kaiser's mass assembly line technique that he picked up from Henry Ford which incorporated prefabricated components brought in from all over the country that could, in turn, be welded together by unskilled laborers. With faster construction times came a massive workforce, which included minorities and women, who made up over 30% of the workforce.

Onsite daycare centers were instated to reduce absenteeism, especially for the women workers. The childcare centers were located either on site and at the entrance to both yards and within the housing villages so the parents could drop them off right before they started their shift. The centers ran 24 hours and had overnight care to accommodate parents who worked night shifts.<sup>102</sup>

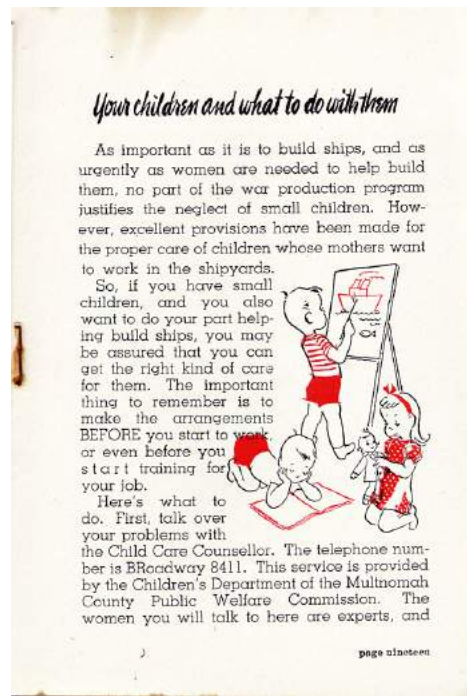
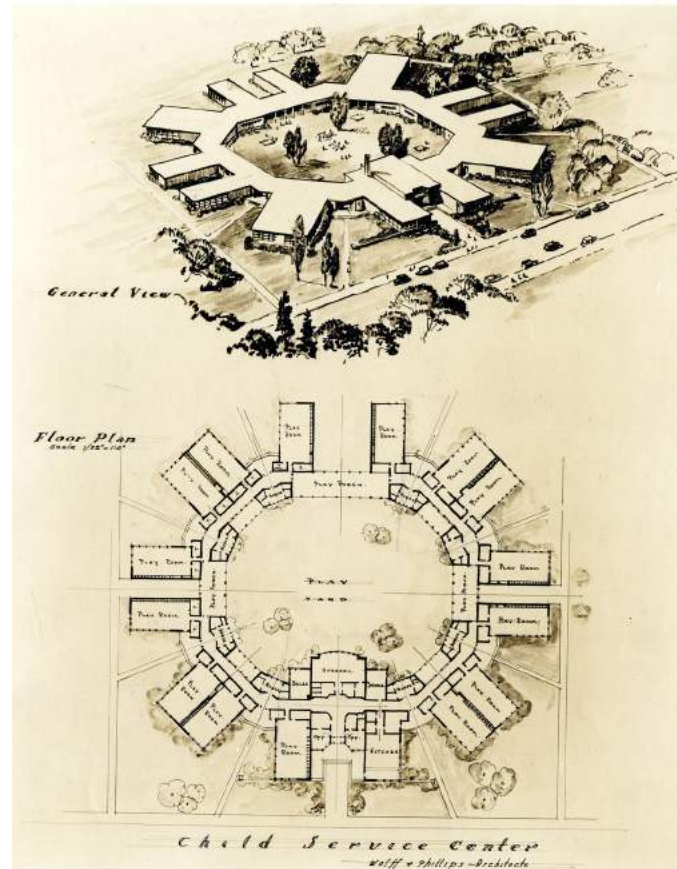


Figure 29: Ca. 1943 Portland Public Schools handbook used to orient new women workers to life in the shipyards and address childcare.

<sup>102</sup> Gordon Oliver, "Kaiser Shipyards," The Oregon Encyclopedia (Oregon Historical Society, May 1, 2019), [https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/kaiser\\_shipyards/#.XPxEudNKhTZ](https://oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/kaiser_shipyards/#.XPxEudNKhTZ;); Lincoln Cushing, "No Getting Round It: an Innovative Approach to Building Design," Kaiser Permanente: About (Kaiser Permanente, June 23, 2017), <https://about.kaiserpermanente.org/our-story/our-history/no-getting-round-it-an-innovative-approach-to-building-design>.



*Figure 30: The Child Service Centers were designed like a wheel. The “hub” was a protected play area, partitioned by age levels. The “spokes” held fifteen playrooms with long banks of windows on either side. The facilities were all child-sized. Source: Oregon Historical Society.*

Wolff and Phillips designed the two Portland Child Service Centers. The centers consisted of a circular ring of classrooms that revolved around six separate playgrounds. Wolff and Phillips credited the innovative designs to Neutra's "ring school" concept. They were staffed with certified teachers from all over the country, nutritionists, and psychiatrists. The centers also provided Home Food Service where any worker could buy prepped meals to take home at the end of their shift. While the childcare centers only operated for a few years, they drew national attention for

their innovative approach.<sup>103</sup> Several literature pieces have been written about the significance of the child service centers on kickstarting early childhood development studies in the U.S.<sup>104</sup>



*Figure 31: Aerial of the Swan Island Shipyard, ca. 1943. Source: Oregon Historical Society.*

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<sup>103</sup> "With Mother at the Factory... Oregon's Child Care Challenges," Life on the Home Front: Oregon Responds to World War II (Oregon Secretary of State), accessed June 8, 2019, <https://sos.oregon.gov/archives/exhibits/ww2/Pages/services-child-care.aspx>.

<sup>104</sup> "Child Care for Swan Island Shipyard Workers," The Oregon History Project (Oregon Historical Society, 2019), <https://oregonhistoryproject.org/child-care-for-swan-island-shipyard-workers/>; Lincoln Cushing, "No Getting Round It: an Innovative Approach to Building Design."

Today, there is evidence that some original buildings still exist, like the large industrial building at 5555 N Channel Ave. Since the buildings have always been industrial, it is unknown to if they retain much of the original interior. The expansive building at 5555 N Channel Ave has alterations to the exterior (cladding, fenestration). While the building is generally standing, it is owned by Vigor Industrial, a multi-state shipbuilding and ship repair company. Due to Oregon's owner consent law and the fact that it is still used for industrial production, there is presumably little probability that these sites would ever receive a historic designation.

How can the preservation community tell the story of the substantial women workforce that helped power wartime shipyards in Oregon? How can preservation tell the story of nonextant resources like the Child Service Centers that were pivotal for allowing these women to work, and that led to early childhood development studies? With limited architectural integrity, the sites are most likely eliminated from preservation through the National Register. How can the Women's History Initiative restructure to tell the story of these sites that have substantial local, regional, and national significance, but that do not meet the criteria of traditional historic preservation tools?



Figure 32: Screenshot of a remaining building from the Kaiser Swan Island yard. Source: Google Maps.

## **CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION**



## Lessons Learned & Moving Forward

*“History is a remarkably potent force not only in preservation, but other areas of human activity.*

*History shapes national identity and allegiances. It determines the success or failure of revolutions and other dramatic transformations. It can inspire the young to take up arms to defend the nation. Most of all, history is malleable: it can be rewritten, rethought, reinterpreted, reinvigorated, and resuscitated to illuminate contemporary challenges.”<sup>105</sup>*

*- Antoinette J. Lee*

The advancement for equality in historic preservation relies on the whole gamut: federal agencies, SHPOs, national foundations like the National Trust, statewide groups, historical societies, advocacy groups, students, and the general community.

Oregon should be applauded for having an initiative; They deserve credit for introducing an initiative aimed explicitly towards increasing the number of women's history sites in the state. By applying a single recommendation or all of them, the Oregon SHPO and the historic preservation community can provide a more comprehensive and inclusive view of the state's resources and history.

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<sup>105</sup> Antoinette J. Lee, “From Historic Architecture to Cultural Heritage: A Journey Through Diversity, Identity, and Community,” 15.

In order to inspire future generations of ground-breaking women, preceding generations of women and men must continue the documentation of women's history sites. Furthermore, when more women are present in the field of preservation, the higher the probability that the stories of women and women's history will be brought to the surface. Like history, the field of historic preservation is malleable. Tools can be altered, and outlooks can change. Gradually, by advocating for more statewide initiatives or merely asking the question "how were women involved in this site?" the concept of women can become another standardized lens in historic preservation.



*Figure 33: With the flame from her torch ignited, "Wendy the Welder" adjusts her goggles at the Electric Boat Co., Groton, Connecticut, 1943. Source: Bernard Hoffman/Time & Life Pictures/Getty Images*

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# Appendix

## SHPO Women's History Initiatives by State

	WOMEN'S HISTORY INITIATIVE	MENTIONED IN HP PLAN	NATIONAL REGISTER INITIATIVE	HISTORIC CONTEXT STATEMENT	MPD/MPIS	HIGHWAY MARKER PROGRAM	HISTORIC SITES DATABASE	DIGITAL MAP, TOURS	CROWDSOURCING CAMPAIGN	PRINT	BIBLIOGRAPHY, RESEARCH MATERIAL	WEBSITE	MULTIMEDIA, ORAL HISTORIES	OTHER	START DATES
AL															
AK		x													
AR															
CA		x													
CO	x	x					x	x	x				x		2016
CT	x														
DE															
DC		x													
FL	x				x	x			x						
GA	x	x	x	x	x				x						1995
HI															
IL															
IN															
IA															
KA															
KY															
LA															
ME															
MD	x	x				x			x						
MA	x	x					x								
MI															
MN															
MS															
MO															
MT	x	x						x		x	x	x	x	x	2018
NE															
NV															
NH	x			x											
NJ	x		x	x				x	x	x	x				ca. 1994-1995
NM	x					x									2007
NY	x							x			x	x			
NC															
ND															
OH		x													
OK															
OR	x						x			x					
PA	x	x				x									
RI															
SC															
SD															
TN															
TX	x					x		x			x				
UT															
VT															
VA		x													
WA	x				x									x	
WV															
WI															
WY															