City of West Linn
Historic Context Statement
Willamette and Holly Grove Neighborhoods

Willamette circa 1900

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Introduction

Methodology

The Building History Inc. team performed a reconnaissance survey update for the Willamette survey area and the Holly-Grove survey area using the newly developed draft reconnaissance level survey methods developed by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. This included a review of existing survey data which had been collected by the Winterbrook Team (2002-2003), field work including the recording basic architectural information for 111 properties in two survey areas, a preliminary eligibility assessment and a photograph of each property in the survey area, and the preparation of data for entry into the SHPO database. This project was funded by a CLG Grant with matching funds provided by the City of West Linn.

The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Preservation Planning were used as a guideline to develop the Historic Context Statement for the survey areas, which summarizes the spatial patterns of property types and their integrity. SHPO’s new RLS Standards for Research Design and Final Report were also consulted. The construction dates were derived from the Clackamas County Assessor’s Office. When available, Sanborn Insurance maps and other historic maps were used to verify the construction dates and overall neighborhood development. Where it was not possible to date a property this way, a construction date was estimated, and there is a notation (circa) in the database. The Clackamas County Cultural Resources Inventory (1984) was also utilized as a resource, as well as research previously collected by local residents. Original deed research was completed (intensive surveys) on three properties within each neighborhood. Recommended next steps were identified for the City of West Linn relating to the treatment of historic properties in the Holly-Grove area of the Bolton neighborhood and the National Register eligibility of the Willamette Conservation District.

Physical and Temporal Boundaries and Existing Historic Designations

Physical Boundaries

The Holly-Grove survey area is located in the Bolton neighborhood of West Linn. It is an irregularly shaped area bordered by Willamette Drive on the west. Garden Street is the northern border, and all the residential properties on this street were surveyed. Holly Street runs through the middle of the survey area as far as Grove Street which runs north/south. The properties along Grove define the east and southern boundaries of the Holly-Grove Conservation District (proposed – 2003 by Winterbrook).
the study area. All of the houses on Grove Street were included in the survey. The area is defined by the major arterial of Willamette Drive, the geographical boundary of the ridge on the east, and the contained nature of the development to the north and south. Even though it is currently within the Bolton neighborhood, this survey area was not part of the original Bolton plat. Instead, it was part of Unit “D” of the West Oregon City Plat (1913), which was also known as “Moody’s Subdivision”, which was platted by Moody Investment Co. Lot 9 of “Moody’s Subdivision” was further subdivided by G.E. Hollowell in 1926, creating the lots and the circular drive at the end of Grove Street. One property is listed on the local inventory: the Glenn Jack House(1924) at 5495 Grove Street in the Holly-Grove neighborhood.

The Willamette neighborhood survey area is located in the former town of Willamette near the southern end of West Linn. It is a roughly rectangular area, bound by 15th Street on the west, 12th Street on the east, and includes all the properties on the north side of 6th Avenue, south to include all the properties on the south side of 4th Avenue. The survey area consists of some of the property purchased from B.F. Baker and Oregon Iron and Steel in 1893 by the Willamette Falls Company. The area quickly developed into a bustling residential area and included a shoe factory and school within two years.

One property is listed on the National Register: the Nicholas Walden House (1895), located at 1847 5th Ave. in the Willamette neighborhood. The residential portion of the Willamette neighborhood (defining the study area) is currently covered by a Historic Conservation District Overlay which provides design standards which property owners must comply with per West Linn’s Community Development Code (Chapter 25). The commercial properties along 7th were not included in the study area.

Temporal Boundaries

Time periods were based upon historic research and development patterns observed from historic maps and Sanborn Insurance Maps from the years 1900, 1910, 1925 and 1950. The time periods for the historic context have been defined as follows:

- Prehistory: Before 1800; Early Discovery Period: 1800-1850; Early Industry and Development Period: 1850-1899; Mid-Industry and Development Period 1900-1924 with subcategories including: Mill and Early City Development: 1900-1910 and
It was anticipated that a majority of the development within both the Willamette and Holly-Grove neighborhoods would have taken place beginning at the end of the Early Industry and Development Period (1890) through the Late Industry and Post Streetcar Development Period (1950). As described more thoroughly in the Findings portion of this report, the period of significance for the Willamette neighborhood was found to be 1895-1930. The period of significance for the Holly-Grove neighborhood was found to be 1920-1940.

**West Linn History**

*Prehistory: Before 1800*

In the period before settlement of the area around the Willamette Falls by European immigrants, the falls were a major gathering place for Native American tribes. The fish at the falls were abundant, and as with Celilo Falls east of The Dalles, the local tribes would meet near the falls to trade, hold traditional feasts and other rituals. A longhouse was located near the falls, and the tribes included members of the Calipooyas, Tualatins, Malales(Molallas) and the Clow-e-wallas. Klamath and Mutnomah tribes would also gather near the falls. The Indians on the west side of the Willamette below the falls called themselves the Ne-ka-mas. Wanaxha was their chief and they had a village which included a partitioned longhouse as well as several other permanent buildings. According to Dr. Samuel Parker of New York describes meeting them:

> “I engaged two Indians belonging to a small village below the falls. Wanaxha, the chief, came up to where I was about to camp alone for the night and invited me to share the hospitality of his house. Believing it would please the chief, I went with him to his dwelling, a long permanent building on the west side of the river, up an elevation of about 100 feet, and near which were several other buildings of nearly the same dimensions. Their houses are built of logs split into thick planks. The walls of the chief’s home are about 7 feet high. They have no chimney to carry off the smoke, but a hole is left open above the fireplace. Mats were spread upon the side of the apartment, raised four feet above the floor, and under which they store away their dried fish, roots, berries and other effects.”

The Molallas had conflicts with the Clow-e-Wallas over fishing rights at the falls and this was compounded with the arrival of the fur traders. The Native Americans believed that animals and fish and even berries and roots within their territory were property of the tribe of that area. Conflict occurred when European settlers came and hunted and fished within their territory without asking permission or trading appropriately. Northwest traders began to use liquor and tobacco in trading with the Indians in order to mitigate the impacts of their hunting and fishing on the land.

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2 Ibid.
Early Discovery Period: 1800-1849

Immediately after the journey of Lewis and Clark in 1803-1804, little changed in the area directly around the falls. There were three fur trading companies in operation at this time: the British Hudson’s Bay Company, Canadian Northwest Company and John Jacob Astor’s Pacific Fur company. In 1824 a truce was negotiated between the British and Canadian companies. John McLoughlin arrived at Fort George in Astoria in 1824 as the Chief Factor of Hudson’s Bay Company. A Canadian of Scottish descent, he established Fort Vancouver and developed a good relationship with the local Native Americans. In 1829 McLoughlin claimed two square miles on the east side of the river above the falls and began construction on a sawmill.³

Unfortunately the increased contact of Native Americans with white settlers caused an epidemic in the 1830’s which wiped out about 90% of the tribes living near the falls. Robert Moore arrived in 1840 and purchased 1,000 acres from Chief Wanaxha, leader of the tribe on the west side of the river. Soon after Moore developed Linn City, a small community that included a lumber and flour mill, chair factory, tavern, wagon shop and gun smith. Moore named the city after his friend, Senator Linn of Missouri, who introduced a bill in 1842 to give grants of free land to Oregon settlers (precursor to the Oregon Donation Land Act of 1850). In 1842, Marshall Perrin staked his claim and in 1843, Hugh Burns settled and developed Multnomah City, which is the current location of the Bolton neighborhood. Linn City was located south of Multnomah City near the current location of the West Linn mill.

Meeting in Champoeg on May 2, 1843, a committee of 102 Oregonians voted to form a provisional government. The first general election was held in 1844 and Oregon City was named capital. In 1844, Burns started the first ferry service across the river to Oregon City, which by this time was thriving under the direction of McLoughlin.

³ Welsh, William D. A Brief History of Oregon City and West Linn, Oregon. (West Linn: Crown Zellerbach Corporation, 1941). pp 4-8
The first newspaper on the Pacific Coast was published in 1846 in Oregon City, and Oregon became an official U.S. Territory on August 14, 1848. General Joseph Lane became Governor of the territory. The office of the U.S. District Court for the territory of Oregon was located in Oregon City.

James Marshall Moore staked a claim near his father’s and constructed a lumber and grist mill. Ambrose Fields and his son Joseph staked a claim in 1847 and 1849 in this vicinity as well.

**Early Industry and Development Period: 1850-1899**

Dr. John McLoughlin resigned from Hudson’s Bay Company and was elected Mayor of Oregon City in 1851. In 1854, Oregon City established a school system by assessing a $1.00 poll tax and organizing a city owned ferry across the Willamette. In 1861 a devastating fire and flood wiped out both Linn City and Multnomah City of the west side of the river.  

In 1869, the first 20 miles of track between East Portland and Parrot Creek were completed by Ben Holliday, giving the first rail access from the east side into Portland. In 1873 the Willamette Falls Canal and Lock Company opened the canal and locks, which allowed ships to bypass the falls for the first time. It consisted of four locks with and overall lift of forty feet.

The Perrin Donation Land Claim was purchased by B.F. Baker in 1885, and the Fields Donation Land Claims were purchased by Oregon Iron and Steel Co. Portions of these claims were located where the town of Willamette eventually developed.

In 1887 the Willamette Transportation and Locks Co. was established. Founded by Edward Eastham this group drew two paper companies by generating power from the falls. The *Morning Oregonian* wrote on September 16, 1889:

> “The group not only had absolute control of the water power at the Falls, but they also owned all the land on both sides of the river at all suitable for the location of factories and for the development of this power.”

In 1887 the Willamette Falls Pulp and Paper Co. was established. The following year, in 1888 the Oregon City Electric Company was formed. This eventually became known as the Willamette Falls Electric Company. This company purchased many properties from the Oregon Iron and Steel Co. William Ladd owned this company which had logged hundreds of acres of this timberland to fuel his foundries in Oswego.

In 1888 the first bridge across the Willamette was completed from Oregon City across to the west. By 1889 the Willamette Pulp and Paper Company completed Mill A. This year the Crown Paper Company was also established and signed a thirty year lease with the Oregon City Electric Company to receive 200 horsepower. Crown constructed a mill at

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4 Ibid. p 18.

the north end of Moore’s Island. Willamette Falls Pulp and Paper Co. had acquired a 50 year lease on the south side of Moore’s Island on January 1, 1887. Their agreements provided 1,000 horsepower for pulping. Mill A first produced pulp on October 7, 1889. Crown began making straw board, wrapping paper and manila wrap in 1890.  

In 1889 the first long distance electrical power transmission was accomplished from the falls to Portland, fifteen miles away. Also in this year three new plats were recorded on the west side of the river: West Side Addition to Oregon City, Windsor, and Weslynn. In 1891 an electric line trolley was built from the Willamette area along the current location of Willamette Falls Drive down to the mill. The trolley was originally constructed to transport cords of wood down to the mill to power the furnace. Two additional plats were recorded in 1892 on the west side of the river: Sunset City and Parker Hill Addition to Oregon City.

By 1892 the Willamette Falls Company formed part of the new Portland General Electric Company. In January 1893 construction began on a large hydroelectric plant (Station B).

In 1893 the Willamette Falls Company purchased land from B.F. Baker and Oregon Iron and Steel, and Nicholas O. Walden platted the city of Willamette Falls. Walden, who was also involved in platting neighborhoods in East Portland, laying out the Portland power grid and laying out its streetcar lines, envisioned Willamette Falls as a completely modern city. It was platted and presented to investors as a possible port city. Docks and a railroad were planned for the floodplain above the falls to transport goods from the Willamette Valley to Portland.

The city consisted of 17 blocks and 200 city lots. Willamette Falls, later shortened to Willamette, it was located on a flat plateau about a mile above the Falls, not far from the original site of Linn City. B.F. Baker sold the land to the company on the condition that a street (12th Street) would run down to the river and give people easy access to the docks.

Willamette Falls was developed as a modern city. It was fully electrified in 1893, the same year New York City was planning electrification. Every house in Willamette was fully wired when constructed. A modern sewer system was installed in 1893, and connection was mandated by deed. Water was pumped up to a water tower near downtown from a well now located in Willamette Park, providing water to the city. Indoor toilets were so new that they were installed in small rooms accessed from the back porch instead of inside the house. By 1895 the Capen Shoe Factory was established in the new town of Willamette and in 1896 the Willamette School was constructed.

Walden died suddenly in 1897, leaving the railroad line unfinished. His vision for the city did not outlive him, upon his death work on the railroad stopped and the city evolved into a mill town.

The Bolton neighborhood meanwhile, was platted in 1896 by the Bolton Land Company, and named for land owners Edward and Pauline Bolton. It consisted of 40 blocks with 300 lots just north of the bridge. The Holly Grove area is part of Bolton, but developed in the 1920’s & 1930’s.

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6 Ibid. p 7-9.
In 1898, the Moehnke Saw Mill opened on two acres of the Robert Moore Donation Land Claim. The Moehnke Saw Mill was where the settling ponds are now. This mill supplied lumber for the Willamette area, including much of the lumber to construct the homes in Willamette was purchased.

Mid-Industry and Development Period: 1900-1924

This period is divided into two subcategories: Mill and Early City Development (1900-1910) and the City Establishment and Urban Growth Period (1911-1924).

Mill and Early City Development: 1900-1910

In 1905 the Crown Paper Company merged with the Columbia River Paper Company in Camas, WA becoming Crown-Columbia Pulp and Paper. In 1908 the town of Willamette incorporated and the Willamette United Methodist Church was formed. In 1909 a typhoid epidemic broke out in the town of Willamette, caused by contaminated river water leaking into the spring which fed the water supply for the town. The property where the original spring was located was privately owned by Mr. Downey. The water works were sold to the town in 1910.

“On two of the springs were electric pumps and cylinders that pumped the water up to a huge tank behind Frenzel’s market. This tank was 40 to 50 feet tall and held 50,000 gallons of water.”

City Establishment and Urban Growth: 1911-1924

In 1913 West Linn incorporated the area which included the neighborhoods of Bolton, Sunset and the mills. More specifically it included the following five tracts which were clustered near the west end of the bridge, most of which developed soon after the completion of the bridge in 1888: West Side Addition to Oregon City (1889); Windsor (1889); Weslynn (1889); Sunset City (1892); Parker Hill Addition to Oregon City (1892); and one tract located just north of the bridge, Bolton (1896).

These areas were originally developed by Oregon City businessmen and managers of the Willamette Falls Company. Business leaders who resided in the Bolton and Sunset neighborhoods united and formed the West Side Improvement Club. They included professionals and the managers at the mills. Their original goal of incorporation was to capture taxes from the two mills and the hydroelectric plant.

Winterbrook Phase II Architectural Survey Map for West Linn (2003), portion showing West Linn neighborhoods.

Willamette Treasures. (West Linn, OR). p. 60
In May of 1913 the West Side Club voted to incorporate West Linn, including the valuable mills and electric plant. Many original inhabitants of Willamette were significant members of the community. However, by 1908, Willamette residents also consisted of mill employees, laborers and agricultural workers. The streetcar, which had been established in 1891 made it quite easy for workers to live up in Willamette and access the mill to go to work. As the neighborhood of Bolton grew and developed, merchants and other professionals who worked in Oregon City tended to settle here. The Sunset neighborhood (also known as West Oregon City) attracted foremen and executives at the mill.

Willamette heard about the vote of the West Side Club to incorporate in order to gain valuable tax funds and scheduled an annexation vote to include these properties within their own boundaries. The first vote was not successful and the Willamette leaders scheduled a second vote on July 30, 1913. Unfortunately this was also unsuccessful, and Willamette leaders believed unfair methods were used and altered the outcome of the vote: “at least three west side families ‘moved’ into the targeted area and set up temporary tents.”\(^8\) On August 13, 1913 West Linn was incorporated by the State of Oregon and it included the two mills and hydroelectric plant.

Willamette Heights was platted by the Willamette Pulp and Paper Company in 1913. West Oregon City was also platted in 1913 and included the area from Sunset City to the south up to Bolton at the north. This area was owned by the Moody Investment Company of Portland and included over a dozen “Units” that were developed through the early twenties.

In 1914 Crown Columbia merged with Willamette Pulp and Paper to form Crown Willamette Pulp and Paper. In 1915 the Federal Government bought the canal and locks for $375,000 and made some improvements. At this time the locks were operated by the Portland Railway, Light and Power Company, and a toll of fifty cents per ton freight and ten cents per passenger were charged. After the U.S. Government purchased the locks the tolls were eliminated.

Due to their continual problems with their independent water supply the town of Willamette was forced to merge with West Linn in 1916. Also that year the first volunteer fire department was organized, and in 1918 the Moehnke Mill closed due to lack of business.

The West Linn Inn (1918) was located just to the south of the present Holly-Grove neighborhood, on the other side of the bridge, and was a major gathering place for residents of West Linn. The Inn had 85 rooms and a restaurant with a long veranda running the length of the building which overlooked the Willamette River and provided a view of the falls, the mills and the lower level of Oregon City. During WWII the Inn was used as a dormitory for men from all over the country who were brought in to keep the mill running. The Crown Zellerbach Corp, which ran the Inn for many years closed.

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the inn in the seventies but continued to operate the restaurant. An article from the Oregonian describes why the inn was built:

“According to old-timers who remember the inn’s beginning, it was constructed to house workers imported as strikebreakers by the former mill operators when regular mill employees tried to organize a union. “They built it because they had to house the strikebreakers,” said Wilmer Gardner, a resident of Oregon City for 69 years...James Paterson, 69, now a resident of St. Helens, remembers his father working at the mill during the organizing period. The strike did not succeed and Paterson believes one of the reasons was because the inn was well positioned near the mill. The picket line, which was established at the west end of the Oregon City- West Linn Bridge was tough to penetrate, he said. But, he said, “workers already in the inn, about 300 yards from the line, didn’t have to cross the line at the bridge. They ate and slept at the inn and just walked down the ramp to work out of sight of the picket line.”

The inn was demolished in the early 1980’s.

In 1920 Willamette Falls Drive was paved and in 1922 a new bridge opened across the Willamette between West Linn and Oregon City which allowed vehicle traffic.

The Moody Investment Co. developed a number of subdivisions in West Linn in the early part of the twentieth century, and developed “Unit D” or “Moody’s Subdivision” in 1922, a 34 lot subdivision and part of the original West Oregon City Plat of 1889. Moody Investment Co. was owned by Franklin Griffith who was also the President of Portland General Electric, now the name of the former Willamette Falls Electric Company. Development in this area did not occur until the late twenties and thirties.

The Holly-Grove neighborhood is located southeast of the Bolton neighborhood and began developing in this time period. Bolton had a school, post office and commercial center. Residents of Holly-grove could access Oregon City across the river to the east via the suspension bridge constructed in 1922 and also had access to Willamette initially with the trolley, and then after 1927 with the bus system.

At this time, West Linn held city council meetings at the trolley station (formerly located at 22825 Willamette Drive, just to the south of the Holly-Grove neighborhood).

“West Linn’s city hall once was a room in a wooden trolley building with a covered walkway for trolley passengers.”

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9 Jones, Fran. “After 62 years, West Linn Inn to close.” Oregonian. April 13, 1980, pB4
Late Industry & Development Period: 1925-1949

This period is subdivided into two subcategories: Subdivision Development: 1925-1929 and Post Streetcar: 1930-1949.

Subdivision Development: 1925-1929

In 1926 the subdivision of Tract 9 in the Holly Grove neighborhood was platted within Unit “D” of “Moody’s Subdivision” by G.E. Hollowell. A significant amount of real estate activity came during the economic boom of the twenties when a dozen subdivisions, many of them quite large, were platted within the city or in unincorporated areas and later annexed to the City. A majority of development was concentrated in the “Units” of the West Oregon City Tract, along River Street as well as in new major subdivisions, Cedaroak and Robinwood, that were originally north of the city but later annexed.

In 1927 streetcars were taken off Willamette Falls Drive and busses began to operate between Willamette, Bolton and Oregon City. In 1928 Crown-Willamette merged with the Zellerbach Paper Company to form the “Crown Zellerbach Paper Company”, which at that time was the largest paper company on the west coast.

Post Streetcar: 1930-1949

The City of West Linn built a new City Hall on the site of the original trolley building in 1936. A large majority of city offices were located at 22825 Willamette Drive:

“\textit{It was torn down to make way for the brick City Hall, dedicated by Mayor Frank A. Hammerle in 1936, when the city’s population was 2,000….When the building was completed, Bud Heath operated his grocery on the main floor, next to the post office. Fire department equipment was stored around back. Municipal offices and the library, established in 1939, were on the second floor.}”\textsuperscript{11}

This building still exists, and is used as the City Police Station. This was a period of increased utilization of the automobile and the construction of new roads in the area. Single family dwellings were now constructed with the automobile in mind. Many newly constructed houses beginning to have attached garages, which can be seen in the Holly-Grove neighborhood. By contrast, in the Willamette neighborhood, where much of the development occurred prior to the increased use of the automobile most of the houses have detached garages. Marylhurst Heights was platted in 1947, near Robinwood.

The paper mill continued to prosper. They continued to use the natural resources found on the Pacific Coast and benefited from their location on the river. They utilized the locks as well:

\begin{quote}
\textit{\textit{In excess of one million tons of freight went through these locks in 1940, most of it pulp timber for the Crown Zellerbach Corporation’s Papermill at West Linn}\textsuperscript{12}}
\end{quote}


\textsuperscript{12} Welsh, William D. \textit{Brief History of Oregon City and West Linn}. P21
Urban Growth and Neighborhood Infill Period: 1950-Present

The City of West Linn continued to grow and change, and local businesses were impacted by large chain stores. The three subdivisions of Cedaroak, Robinwood and Marylhust were annexed in 1967. City services such as police, fire, the post office and the library were decentralized from their original central location on Willamette:

“Les DeJardin bought Heath’s grocery in 1945 and moved out in 1954, three years after joining the group that founded the Thriftway markets. The post office expanded on the first floor, then moved out in 1956, and the police department filled the first floor. The library left for a room in the Bolton Fire Station on Failing Street in 1979. The library on Burns Street opened in 1989.”13

Crown Zellerbach continued their operations through 1986 when they sold the company to the James River Corporation. The mill was the largest employer for the City of West Linn, with the workforce consisting of over 1,500 employees in the early part of the twentieth century. By 1940 this number had been slightly reduced to just over 1,000 primarily due to technological improvements requiring less skilled manual labor.

By 1990 when Simpson Paper acquired the mill there were 550 employees. The mill closed briefly in 1996, and was bought in 1997 by Belgravia Investments and was reopened as the West Linn Paper Company. Currently they run three machines, 24 hours a day and manufacture 650 tons of paper daily. West Linn can claim to have the oldest continuously operating paper mill on the Pacific Coast:

“by other measures too, this mill is historically important: in the production it achieved; the renewable resources it utilized; the technologies it imported; the labor force it employed; the industrial and corporate changes it represented; and the influence it had on people, communities, the state and the region.”14

At the turn of the century the town of Willamette had just 100 people. By 1920 the City of West Linn included 1,600 people and by 1950 it had grown to 2,900. In 1967, the annexation of Robinwood increased the population from 3,900 to 7,100. The construction of I-205 in the early seventies caused a significant amount of new development in the area. By 1980 West Linn had a population of 13,000, and by 2005 the city had grown to 24,080 people. The City now has an incorporated area of 7.9 square miles with about forty-two percent of the population working in management, professional or executive positions.

Findings By Contextual Period

This section describes the historic resources found in the survey areas as defined by contextual period and theme. A total of 111 properties were surveyed, with 70 properties evaluated in the Willamette neighborhood and 41 properties surveyed in the Holly-Grove neighborhood. The Willamette neighborhood is laid out in an orderly grid and is significant for its intact collection of residential houses from 1895-1930. Styles range from Victorian to Craftsman and Bungalow. The Holly-Grove neighborhood is significant for its early 1920’s cul d’ sac. Its residential architecture ranges from 1920-1940. Styles range from the Craftsman and Bungalow to the early Ranch.

14 Stein, Harry Phd. “Paper Mill and West Linn”
The time periods for the historic context have been defined as follows:


No above ground resources were observed in either of the survey areas that date from the Prehistory or Early Discovery Periods. No development occurred within the Holly-Grove neighborhood until the late part of the Mid-Industry and Development Period (City Establishment and Urban Growth). For the Willamette neighborhood, development began at the end of the Early Industry and Development Period and has continued through the Urban Growth and Neighborhood Infill Period. The period of significance for the Willamette neighborhood was found to be 1895-1930. The period of significance for the Holly-Grove neighborhood was found to be 1920-1940.

Findings are presented for each neighborhood within each contextual period, along with the property themes which appeared in each period. Each theme is in turn described by the resource types (styles) applicable to that theme in the survey area. There were 110 properties surveyed. There are many themes represented in Oregon; however, the survey areas are moderately sized and easily characterized as entirely residential. The findings present a breakdown of the residential theme into its stylistic sub-themes. There are two houses in the Holly-Grove neighborhood which are currently (or were recently) used for commercial offices. These are 1595 Holly Street and 22150 Willamette Drive.

There are many domestic architectural styles recognized by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office but not all styles are represented in the survey areas. The styles appearing in the survey areas are noted and the corresponding SHPO style codes appear in parentheses.

**Early Industry and Development Period: 1850-1899**

*Findings for Willamette Neighborhood*

The town of Willamette was platted in 1893 by the Willamette Falls company. Also known as Willamette Falls, the initial plat consisted of 17 rectangular blocks with bisecting alleys with 200 lots. The City of West Linn created an historic overlay over the core area of this original plan which has defined our study area.

The original founders of Willamette intended it to be a port city with modern, electrified homes and sewer hookups. Many homes were purchased and owned by significant founding members of the community, such as Nicholas Walden and Sheriff Mass. After the turn of the century, Willamette was also inhabited by blue collar workers, those who worked at the mill, the Electric Light Company and the Capen Shoe Factory.

The Capen Shoe factory was located on the south side of 7th Avenue, on the corner of 7th Avenue, and 12th Street. The shoe factory had electricity supplied from the Willamette Falls Electric Company.
The area around the town was heavily wooded and the first electric rail line was constructed in order to haul cords of wood down to the mill to burn in their furnace. The summary for Willamette (Falls) on the 1900 Sanborn states:

“Willamette Falls, Clackamas County Oregon; 3 miles southwest of Oregon City, OR. Population: 100; Prev. winds S – No Fire Apps. Water from tank (see Block 8), cap. 10,000 gals, elev. 22' filled from springs by elec. Pump located 1600' se of tank near Willamette River- pumped time 7-10 RPM. Direct press can be had at other times by turns on power at pump, no nyde as shown, no hose. Grade, gentle downward slope from 7th Ave. to river.”

It is interesting to note that on the 1900 Sanborn map located on the northwest side of 7th Ave (Willamette Falls Drive) it is noted that there are two 10’ high cord wood piles. In 1900 there were 100 people living in Willamette and 7th Avenue was the commercial street. At this time most of the shops were located on the south side of 7th Ave. One grocery store and post office was located on the block between 13th and 14th on 7th Ave. along with some flats(apartments) on the corner to the southwest. There was another shop to the northeast and several residences.

The public school was located on the northeast side of 12th Street between 5th and 6th Avenues.

Initially residential development occurred primarily on the blocks from Sixth Avenue down to Fourth Avenue, between 12th and 14th Streets. By 1900 there were seventeen residences located within this area. Five residences were constructed by this time along Sixth Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets. On Fifth Avenue, seven residences were constructed by 1900 between 12th and 14th Streets. On Fourth Avenue, five residences were constructed by 1900 between 12th and 14th Streets.

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15 1900 Oregon City Sanborn Map, page 33
Some historic information is known about the properties that were developed before 1900. Information was collected from the Clackamas County Cultural Resources Inventory (1984), research collected by local homeowners and the Willamette Neighborhood Association, and original title research was completed on three of the properties (1296 12th Street, 1847 5th Ave. and 1731 6th Ave.).

The house at 1892 4th Ave was constructed by O.F. Olsen. 1744 4th Street was an early settlers house brought up from the river. The house at 1831 5th Ave was constructed by Joseph H. Ralston, a house builder. Joseph Ralston’s Uncle, Joseph R. Ralston was a Director of the Oregon Woolen Mill at Park Place, near Oregon City, and was one of those who signed the original petition for statehood.

1847 5th Ave (1895) was constructed by Nicholas O. Walden, and is currently listed on the National Register. Walden organized the Willamette Falls Electric Company along with E. L. Eastham. He also helped organize the Willamette Transportation and Locks Company. The property was held in the Walden family until 1919 when it was sold to the Poolers. It was sold several times in the twenties until it was sold to J.B. and Mary Rauch in 1926 who owned the property for forty-three years until 1969, when it was bought by Janis and Dennis Rice. It was sold to Charles and Diane Awalt in 1979 who still own the property today.

1892 4th Ave- Olsen House

The property at 1882 5th Ave was noted in the Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory as the ‘Morgan Residence’ and it is noted that this house was constructed by Mrs. Morgan while living in the house at 1872 SW 5th Ave. The house is also associated with G.A. Harding.
1798 4th Ave was constructed by Mr. Shipley and originally owned by C.G. Schmidt. 1830 6th Ave was constructed by Joseph Jones. This house is known as the Jones-Fromono Residence. As it explains in the Willamette Walking Tour booklet (and verified by research and field work):

“Andy Fromol, an early owner, lived here many years and was the Willamette trolley motorman. Andy’s name is written on the sidewalk in front of the house.”

1731 6th Ave. (1895) was constructed by J.P. Logan who purchased the lot from the Willamette Falls Company in November of 1894. Logan held the property until 1905 when it transferred several times before it was sold to Cora Moenhke that same year. Cora was part of the Moenhke family who operated the Moenhke Saw Mill. The saw mill was operated by Charles Moenhke and his son August who provided sawn lumber for many of the houses in Willamette. Cora Moenhke sold the property to E.P. and Ida Berdine in 1907 who owned it for several years until they sold it to Minnie and Guy Gross in 1912. The property was still owned seventy-two years later by Minnie Gross at the time the Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory was conducted in 1984.

One of Sheriff Mass’ houses was constructed at 1492 13th Street in 1897. Sheriff Mass was the Clackamas County Sheriff for twenty years. This house was also occupied by Dr. and Mrs. Silverman who practiced medicine and ran a tea house in 1925.

The house at 1822 5th Ave. was constructed in 1899. This house was known as the Miller-Baker House for its association with Charles Miller and the Baker family. Edwin Woodworth, principal and superintendent of Willamette School for many years also owned this home.

The property at 1780 6th Ave. was constructed in 1898 and is known locally as the Buckles-Elligsen House. Elligsen purchased the property in 1900, but the house was constructed for Buckles in 1898, who had a store on 7th with Millikens. The property at 1862 SE 4th Ave. was constructed in 1897 by T.S. Hurst. 1872 SW 5th Ave. was owned by

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1492 13th Street (1897)

Sheriff Mass
E. M. Rasmussen who owned a number of properties in the area. I.W. Moser was the original owner of this house, which was constructed in 1898.

Willamette Resource Types

The Stick (VM), Queen Anne (VH) and Bungalow (AD) styles all first appeared in the Willamette neighborhood prior to 1900.

There are four examples of the Stick style in the Willamette neighborhood which all appeared before the turn of the century, including 1731 Sixth Avenue (1895).

Stick style is a transitional style linking the preceding Gothic Revival with the subsequent Queen Anne styles. Stick style stresses the wall surface as a decorative element. The style is characterized by wood wall cladding interrupted by horizontal, vertical and diagonal boards (stickwork) raised from the wall surface, mimicking half-timbering.

This style emerged from the Picturesque Gothic style and was common in pattern books from the 1860s-70s. In Oregon, its popularity spanned from about 1870-1895. Never as popular as other styles of the period, it was rapidly replaced by the related Queen Anne style.

There are seventeen houses in the Queen Anne style in the Willamette neighborhood. The style first made its appearance during this time period, but also was constructed through the next time period. An example of the style in the neighborhood is 1831 Fifth Avenue (1895).

The Queen Anne style is characterized by asymmetrical massing, wrap-around porches, steeply pitched roofs, and a variety of decorative surface materials. In the Queen Anne style, wall surfaces are used a primary decorative elements. Plain, flat walls are avoided by the use of bay windows, towers, wall insets and projections, and by using a variety of wall materials of differing textures. This style was dominant in domestic architecture from about 1880-1900. It was named and popularized by a group of 19th century English architects. The style has little to do with Queen Anne or the architecture common during her reign (1702-14). The style was popular in the Willamette Valley from 1885-1905.

The Bungalow style is the most common style in the Willamette neighborhood, with 25 examples appearing as early as 1895 and as late as 1930. These include 1744 Fourth Ave. (1895), 1709 Fifth Avenue (1920), 1790 Fifth Avenue(1920), and 1706 Sixth Avenue (1928).

The Bungalow style is an accessible, informal style related to the ideals of the English Arts and Crafts movement. The style is characterized by an open floorplan, the use of natural materials, and simplicity of design. Bungalows were popularized by trade publications and plan books. They were commonly small to moderately sized dwellings constructed of readily available materials. The style was very popular in Oregon, its
popularity coinciding with a period of enormous growth in the region. The style was popular from about 1900 to about 1925.

A typical bungalow has 1 to 1 1/2 stories, a low pitched roof, and an integral front porch. Details include exposed eaves, decorative raftertails and brackets, and tapered porch posts.

**Mid-Industry and Development Period: 1900-1924**

**Mill and Early City Development: 1900-1910**

**Findings for Willamette Neighborhood**

By the 1911 update of the Sanborn maps, the Methodist Church (1908) had been constructed. The Capen Shoe Factory was still in operation at its location on the corner of 7th Ave. and 12th Streets. There were two general stores shown on the southeast side of 7th Ave. near the corner of 14th Street, and one structure for storage next door. The 1911 Sanborn still shows on 10’ high wood pile on the northwest side of 7th Ave. and several residences on this side of the street. There was no local fire station or volunteer fire department. The water for the town was still supplied from a spring.

Between 1900 and 1911 eleven new residences were constructed. Residential development continued within the area between Sixth down to Fourth Avenues, between 12th and 15th Streets, with most of the new development occurring along 6th Avenue.

The property at 1296 12th Street (1906) was originally owned by David Samson who purchased the lot from the Willamette Falls Company. An earlier house with a larger footprint was built on the property before 1900, but this earlier structure was destroyed most likely by fire. At the site is an older stone foundation most likely dating from the earlier residence. The *Willamette Walking Tour* booklet notes that this foundation may have belonged to the Albert Epperly House(1859). A second more modest house was constructed in 1906. David Samson sold the property to Ernest and Nola Mass in 1909. This is the second house associated with County Sheriff Mass, and it is generally thought that this was temporary housing for the Mass family. Sheriff Mass owned the
property until 1929 when it was sold to Ada Ison. The property remained in the Ison family until it was sold to the Tedd family in 1941. The Tedd family owned the property until 1977 when it was sold to Charles Bennett. John Klatt and Jody Carson currently own the property and moved and restored the Britton Barn (1906) from 19th and Dollar to the site in 1993.

1870 6th Ave. (1907) was originally owned by Frank Capen, the owner of the Capen Shoe Factory. 1819 6th Ave. (1902) was built for F.S. Howell. This was a PGE show home for all electric modern appliances in the 1920’s. 1818 6th Ave. (1900) was constructed for Great Grandma Dollar, one of the early families of the area. Mr. Clem Dollar built the first service station in 1944 on 7th Ave. 1831 6th Ave. was constructed in 1904 and is associated with Sadie White. 1892 6th Ave. (1905) was owned originally by E.M Rasmussen. Rasmussen built a number of homes in the 1895-1910 era. Charles Boots who was the foreman of the Capen Shoe Factory owned this house.

City Establishment and Urban Growth: 1911-1924

Findings for Willamette Neighborhood

By 1925 several significant changes had occurred in the town of Willamette (Falls). It was now located within the city limits of West Linn, had an increased population of 500 and they now had a fire department which included a 40 gallon chemical cart, 1 hose cart with a 500’ 7” hose and a volunteer fire department of 30 men. Their water was now supplied by a 10” main on 7th Street which used a gravity press into a one million gallon reservoir and then forced into a 50,000 gallon stand pipe 50’ high and located ¾ miles northwest of West Linn with an elevation approximately 100’ above Main Street in Oregon City. There was a 6” main from this stand pipe to Willamette (Falls). The town of Willamette had continued to develop with commercial development continuing along 7th Avenue. Probably the most noticeable change on the commercial street was the loss of the Capen Shoe Factory to fire. Several residences were constructed along the northwest side of 7th Avenue, as well as a new auto garage and repair shop. A post office and general store was now located on the southeast side of 7th Avenue on the corner of 7th Avenue and 13th Streets, and a drug store and another general store were located on the block between 13th and 14th Streets. Several other shops and stores located along 7th Avenue as well. The public school on 12th Street had doubled in size.

17 1925 Oregon City Sanborn, page 33
Residential development continued in the area southeast of 7th Avenue down to 4th Avenue, and between 12th and 15th Streets. Between 1911 and 1925 twenty new residences were constructed in this area, with a majority of the development occurring along 5th Avenue.

1808 4th Ave (1916) was built for Ewalt Leisman. The Leismans began operating a General Store in 1914 on 7th Ave., originally it was located on the corner of 7th Ave and 14th Streets and then was moved to the corner of 7th and 13th Street. They had a popular home delivery service.

The house at 1790 5th Ave.(1920) was constructed and owned by the Millekin family. Wes Millekin owned Buckles and Millekin the first grocery store in Willamette, located on 7th Avenue. The house at 1782 5th Ave. was originally owned by Herman Hanson. An earlier house owned by Fannie and Adolph Mihlstein existed at the site. 1697 5th Ave.(1924)was built by Bill Snidow, who once operated a pool hall on 7th Avenue. The house at 1611 6th Ave. was constructed in 1911 by Ed Gross. 1658 6th Avenue was built for the Oldenstadts.

**Willamette Resource Types**

There were two primary resource types within this time period: The Bungalow Style (AD) was the most popular, and Colonial Revival (RB)

There are five examples of the Colonial Revival style in the Willamette neighborhood which first appeared during this time period, including 1508 14th Street (1916). This style continued to appear through to the present day and 1767 Fifth Avenue (1986), a Cape Cod subtype is another example of this style.

Colonial Revival refers to the rebirth of interest in the early English and Dutch colonial houses of the Atlantic coast of the United States. It was an attempt to create a truly American style based on this colonial architecture.

In Oregon, Colonial Revival houses began to appear frequently around 1900. The style continued to be popular for decades. The style is regionally expressed most commonly in a symmetrical form, one or two stories, with classical decorative elements such as pilasters and sidelights.

**Findings for Holly-Grove Neighborhood**

F.A. and Leona Burdon, William and Alice Jordan and Moody Investment Co. owned the tracts of land that became the subdivision known as “Unit D” of “West Oregon City”. This subdivision included 34 lots ranging in size from about half an acre to almost five acres in size. This subdivision was bounded by Hood Street on the west, River Street and the Willamette River on the east, a portion of Burns Street to the northwest, the properties along the north side of Holly Street formed the north boundary, and lot 9 (the future Hollowell Subdivision) formed the southern boundary. About 15 of these lots are contained within this original subdivision. A majority of these lots were subdivided in the twenties and thirties creating a total of 41 lots currently within the study area.

The Holly-Grove neighborhood began developing at the end of this period, beginning in 1920. Between 1920 and 1925 six houses were built in this neighborhood, three were on Holly, and three houses were on Grove. Garland E. Hollowell purchased lot 9 from
Moody Investment Co. in 1922 and constructed the house at 5370 Grove Street. Four years later Garland E. Hollowell subdivided this lot into nine additional lots (A-G), and retained his home on lot “B” of this subdivision. This plat had a total of 10 lots which were configured in an early example of the modern day cul d’sac. Further research is recommended to determine where Hollowell developed his idea for this plan layout. It is quite possible that this is one of the earliest examples of the cul d’sac design in Oregon. Three of the lots (J, K, L) are located abutting lots C and D of the Hollowell plat to the south and are not included within the study area.

5495 Grove (1924) is on the Local Cultural Resource Inventory. F.A. Burdan purchased lot 14 from the Moody Investment Co. in 1924 and sold it to Glenn and Vanessa Jack in October of 1925. The property remained in the Jack family for almost 60 years. It was transferred to Alan and Laurie Jack in 1975 who sold it in 1982, after which it has had various owners.

_Holly Grove Resource Types_

Three primary resource types appeared in the Holly-Grove Neighborhood during this time period, the Bungalow (AD), the Colonial Revival (RB) and the Arts and Crafts (AC). There are seven examples of the Bungalow style in the Holly-Grove neighborhood. 1536 Holly Street (1922) and 5370 Grove Street (1922) are two good examples.

_Late Industry and Development Period: 1925-1949_

_Subdivision Development: 1925-1929_

Findings for the Willamette Neighborhood

The residential area between 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Streets continued to develop between 1925 and 1929 but at a slower pace. Only two houses were constructed: 1706 6<sup>th</sup> Ave (1928), 1296 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. (1927).

The property at 1706 6<sup>th</sup> Ave (1928) was built by Charlie Frenzel. Charlie Frenzel and his wife ran Frenzel’s market on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The market was located right next door to a store run by Buckles and Millikens. The market is described in “Willamette Treasures”:

> “The market was a general store, meat market, and lockers combination for many years. The Frenzels gradually went into feed and seed and as years went by added a tavern which was originally located in the back of their store.”

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18 _Willamette Treasures_. West Linn, OR. 1969.
The Frenzel residence was located next to Willamette’s first water tank.

Findings for Holly-Grove Neighborhood

Fourteen houses were built in this neighborhood between 1925 and 1929, and this was by far the most active period of development. One house was constructed on Willamette Drive at 22150 Willamette Dr. (1929). Two houses were constructed on Garden: 1550 Garden (1927), 1551 Garden (1926). Four houses were constructed on Holly Street: 1513 Holly (1928), 1519 Holly (1927), 1547 Holly (1928) and 1595 Holly (1927). Three houses were constructed on Grove’s main street: 5435 Grove (1926), 5475 Grove (1925), 5480 Grove (1926). Four new houses were constructed within the new Hollowell subdivision at the end of Grove: 5340 Grove (1929), 5380 Grove (1927), 5390 Grove (1929), 5395 Grove (1927).

Holly-Grove Resource Types

There were four resource types identified in the Holly-Grove neighborhood within this time period: English Cottage (RC), Colonial Revival (RB), Bungalow (AD) and Altered (OB).

There are five examples of the Colonial Revival style in the Holly-Grove neighborhood. 5475 Grove Street (1925) is a good example of a Dutch Colonial Revival house.

There are eleven English Cottage style houses in the Holly-Grove neighborhood which are modest in both size and detail. Examples include 5480 Grove Street (1926) and 1547 Holly Street (1928).

The English Cottage style developed from the romantic ideal of an English country house. While real English cottages were constructed of genuine half timbering or stone with stucco parging, The English cottage of the northwest was constructed of stucco, brick or wood. Instead of a thatched roof, they had rolled eaves, jerkinheads, and catslide features on the roofs. Other possible features include small pane or diagonal pane casement windows, sometimes metal.

Post Streetcar: 1930-1949

Findings for the Willamette Neighborhood

Between 1930 and 1949 several significant changes occurred in Willamette. By this time the town was no longer referred to as “Willamette Falls”, but was now known as “Willamette”. In the 1950 Sanborn Map the population of West Linn is noted at 1,066, but the town of Willamette’s population is still shown steady at 500. The Willamette fire department now had a building located on the northwest side of 7th Avenue next to the Auto Repair Shop. The General Store and Post Office, along with all the other commercial buildings were located on the southeast side of 7th Avenue. The school was still in the same location, but had burned and been replaced in 1950 with the school that still stands today.

The residential area between 12th and 15th Streets continued to develop between 1930 and 1950 but at a slower pace, reflecting the economic impact of the depression and the lean
years of WWII. A total of four new houses were constructed in this period, they were located at: 1769 4th (1930), 1788 4th Ave. (1934), 1630 6th Ave. (1935), and 1344 14th Ave (1941).

Findings for Holly-Grove Neighborhood

Twelve houses were constructed between 1930 and 1949. One house was constructed on Garden (1938). A majority of development occurred on Holly Street. Four houses were constructed on Grove.

Holly-Grove Resource Types

Four Resource Types appeared during this time period. They include the Colonial Revival (RB), English Cottage (RC), Bungalow(AD) and the Ranch (MQ).

There are five examples of the Ranch style in the Holly-Grove neighborhood, including 1524 Holly (1940) and 1555 Holly Street (1951).

The Ranch style originated in California in the mid-1930s and was the most popular style of architecture from the 1940s to the 1960s. The automobile made it possible to be lavish with land, in contrast with streetcar suburbs where small lots and close proximity of houses ruled. Ranches are generally one-story with low pitched roofs, and large picture windows, giving them a distinctive horizontal appearance.

Urban Growth and Neighborhood Infill Period: 1950-Present

Findings for the Willamette Neighborhood

Currently the commercial district remains along the former location of 7th Avenue, now known as Willamette Falls Drive. The remainder of study area has remained residential, 1950, with 17 residences constructed after 1950.

Willamette Resource Types

There are six resource types which appear during this time period in the Willamette Neighborhood. They include: the Ranch (MQ), Northwest Regional (ML), the Neo-Colonial (NB), the Colonial Revival (RB) and the Vernacular (OH). Nine of the new houses are constructed in the Neo-Victorian (NF) style.

Findings for the Holly-Grove Neighborhood

Four houses were constructed in the neighborhood from 1950 to the present. One was constructed on Garden: 1540 Garden (1995), and two on Holly: 1542 Holly (1951), and 1555 Holly (1951). The remaining lot in the Hollowell subdivision was developed in 1952 at 5375 Grove.

Probably the most significant impact to this area was the construction of I-205 to the south in the late sixties. Also significant is the pressure to develop commercial properties along the major arterial close to the neighborhood- Willamette Drive (State Highway 49).
Five houses were recently demolished along Garden Street in 2005 at the northwest corner of the study area to make way for a new shopping center.

It should also be noted that according to the 1967 City of West Linn road map the street configuration was not originally a circular drive with a house (5390 Grove) at the center. It appears that originally there was a private access drive off of Willamette providing access to lots at the southwest end of Grove. It appears that the end of Grove originally culminated in a small cul d’sac at the foot of Grove.

By 1983 the street map shows Grove as the circular drive exists today, and as the original Hollowell plat map intended.

**Holly Grove Resource Types**

There were two resource types which appeared in the Holly-Grove neighborhood within this time period. They include the Ranch (MQ) and the Contemporary (MC) styles.
Summary of Survey Findings and Recommendations

This phase of study involved the reconnaissance survey of 41 properties in the Holly-Grove neighborhood, and 70 properties in the Willamette neighborhood. Every property within the established boundary was recorded, regardless of age, to provide a complete record of the two areas.

The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office’s newly implemented reconnaissance survey methodology was used for this project. It involves a more streamlined survey process creating a database in Microsoft Access. Properties were evaluated as to whether they were contributing or non-contributing historic buildings, and their style and materials were documented.

The following evaluation codes, established by SHPO, were used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ES</td>
<td>eligible/significant has the highest level of historic significance and integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>eligible/contributing contributes to the district but may have somewhat less significance and/or historic integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>not eligible/non-contributing does not possess significance and/or integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP</td>
<td>not eligible/out of period was constructed outside the period of significance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XD</td>
<td>demolished has been demolished</td>
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</table>

Summary of Findings for Willamette Neighborhood

Seventy properties were surveyed in the Willamette neighborhood. The previously determined boundary was checked and determined to be reasonable, however there is a possibility of extending the district several blocks to the north during a subsequent survey phase. The area constituted the most densely settled area of the City of Willamette, established by the Willamette Falls Company and incorporated into the City of West Linn in 1916. One house in the survey area is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Nicholas Walden House at 1847 Fifth Street. There are no
houses in the survey area designated as local historic landmarks.

Since a majority of development in the Willamette residential neighborhood occurred before 1930 (68%), the period of significance for the Willamette neighborhood was determined to be 1895-1929. Of the 70 properties surveyed, 22 were constructed after 1929. Of the remaining 48 properties, twelve were determined to be non-contributing because of extensive alterations which damaged their historic integrity. Six were determined to be eligible/significant (ES) and 30 were determined to be eligible/contributing (EC) for a total of 51% of the district.

The Willamette neighborhood is a cohesive collection of primarily late Victorian and early 20th century American styles. There are 21 houses in the Stick and Queen Anne styles, and 25 in the Craftsman Bungalow style. Many houses occupy double lots, although there has been some recent infill construction. The majority of the houses constructed during the period of significance retain a high level of historic integrity, and have been well maintained.

**Summary of Findings for the Holly-Grove Neighborhood**

Forty-one properties were surveyed in the Holly-Grove neighborhood. The previously determined boundary was checked and overall determined to be reasonable based on geographical barriers and the age and condition of the adjoining houses. The boundary was slightly enlarged by adding one additional property. The property on the end of Garden (at 1540 Garden), at the northeast corner of the survey area was added since it was the only property on Garden not included. There are no houses within the survey area listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One house, 5495 Grove Street, is a designated local landmark.
All of the surveyed buildings in the Holly-Grove area were over 50 years old with the exception of one.

The period of significance for the Holly-Grove neighborhood was determined to be 1920-1940, since a majority (73%) of the buildings were constructed during this time period. Of those constructed within the period of significance, 20 are contributing (EC) and two are eligible/significant (ES), consisting of 54% of the total district. Eight are non-contributing. Those which are non-contributing have been altered to the point that they have lost their historic integrity. Six are not within the period of significance and five have been demolished.

**Recommendations**

**Willamette Neighborhood**

Because of its cohesiveness, its intact collection of late Victorian architecture, and its high level of historic integrity, the Willamette district is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, and it is recommended that the next phase of the master plan include nomination of this area. The probable continued infill construction within the district, as well as potential development pressure from the commercial district along Willamette Falls Drive to the north, suggest that National Register nomination and the adoption of accompanying design guidelines for the district would help preserve the district.

It is also recommended that the area to the northeast of the current Willamette Neighborhood Conservation District be resurveyed to update existing data. The resurvey may result in the determination that this additional area should be included in or added to the Willamette Conservation District and/or the National Register District. The recommended resurvey area extends from Twelfth Street northeast to Fourth Street between Willamette Falls Drive on the north to the ridge on the south, where the streets dead-end.

In addition, it is recommended that design guidelines be implemented in a perimeter area around the proposed National Register District, in the form of an overlay. This “transition area” will protect the district from encroachment on its immediate borders by incompatible development. The guidelines for this area could be less strict than within the district, but may include restrictions on height, use, density, and building materials, among other things.
**Holly Grove Neighborhood**

The houses in the Holly-Grove neighborhood are modestly sized, 1, 1.5 and 2 story buildings. The architecture of the area is characteristic of its time, but not particularly distinctive. Nearly all the buildings in the Holly-Grove neighborhood have had moderate to major alterations which affect their historic integrity to some degree. There are no vacant lots in the survey area (other than those on Garden Street). However, there is significant development pressure along Willamette Drive to the east and Garden Street to the north, where new commercial development is occurring. Some houses along Willamette Drive have been converted to commercial uses, which typically results in damage to the historic fabric and integrity of an area. Because of these factors, the Holly-Grove area is not recommended for nomination as a district to the National Register of Historic Places.

It is recommended, however, that a historic conservation overlay be created by the City, with design guidelines to protect the historic integrity of the area. All nine properties on Garden Street were eliminated from the recommended local conservation district, because of extensive recent demolition and the lack of a direct connection with Holly and Grove Streets.
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4. Interviews


5. Photographs

Historic Photographs in this report are from the collections of Charles & Diane Awalt, and John Klatt & Jody Carson, West Linn Oregon.
Analysis of West Linn’s Preservation Program

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Analysis of West Linn’s Historic Preservation Program

West Linn Comprehensive Plan

The West Linn Comprehensive Plan has nine specific Action Items identified within their comprehensive plan. Four of the nine action items pertain specifically to the Willamette Historic District which includes the commercial district along 7th Avenue. They are identified as follows:

Recommended Action measures

1. Maintain the Willamette Historic District as delineated in the Community Development Code, and establish development standards that will:
   a. Preserve the historic and aesthetic character of the Willamette Historic District.
   b. Incorporate into new construction architectural design elements that are historically compatible with existing buildings in the district, as well as appropriate to the Pacific Northwest.
   c. Advocate for the preservation, protection, and vitality of the Historic District, ensuring that the District’s unique, historic qualities are protected through the Design Review process.

2. Identify a historic centerpiece for the Willamette Historic District to provide a focal point for the area.

3. Continue to enforce the special historic standards that apply to the Willamette commercial area, and continually improve code language to meet the needs of that business district.

4. Preserve and enhance the City’s historic resources by updating the City’s inventory of historic landmarks consistent with the list of historic properties designated in the Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory.

5. Continue to utilize the Clackamas County/West Linn Historic Review Board as the advisory body that guides implementation of West Linn’s historic preservation and related public education programs.

6. Obtain "Certified Local Government" status in the National Historic Preservation Program to provide additional opportunities to fund historic preservation and planning activities in the City.

Investigate funding opportunities for the City's historically significant districts and landmarks.

Pursue acquisition of land containing the historic Willamette Trolley rail corridor along Willamette Falls Drive.

Work with business and neighborhood groups to identify improvements to the Willamette District, such as period streetlights, that could enhance the historic character of the area.
The West Linn Comprehensive Plan further establishes plan designations for the city as a whole. The Willamette neighborhood, specifically the residential study area has been given a medium density designation in contrast to the area immediately surrounding it which is low density.

While not part of the Comprehensive Plan, the **Bolton Zoning/Neighborhood Overlay Group** which the Holly-Grove neighborhood is a part of, has identified seven goals:

1. Adoption of architectural design guidelines for commercial areas
   a. Perhaps using police station as model
   b. Including a transitional design on commercial/residential boundaries.
2. Support of existing central commercial district
3. Home business enforcement in residential areas
4. Neighborhood Identity Protection Overlay
   a. Historic
   b. Preservation of existing residential
   c. No higher density
   d. No additional commercial zoning
   e. control of infill
   f. lot setbacks
5. Highway 43
   a. No wider
   b. safe and frequent pedestrian crossings
   c. no strip commercial
   d. 25 mph speed limit
   e. continuous sidewalks
   f. landscaping
   g. bike lanes
6. Control light pollution from commercial and residential buildings
7. Bury power lines
   a. To enhance neighborhood beauty
   b. to prevent butchering of trees.

According to the **Bolton Neighborhood Plan** which was adopted on April 10,2006, Action measures and goals have been adopted which have specifically impacted the study area. Specifically Goal #3, which states that:
“The Bolton Central Village area shall serve the neighborhood’s commercial needs with accessible, friendly, and sustainable commercial development.”

The Bolton Central Village Map clearly indicates that the properties at the northwest corner of the Holly-Grove study area, which original included historic residences, were identified as part of this central commercial corridor.

The Holly-Grove Neighborhood retains a low density designation, however the strip of properties along Willamette (Highway 43), including the properties along Garden are all designated Commercial. This designation resulted in the loss of five historic properties in August of 2005.

**The West Linn Historic Resources Ordinance.**

*Historic Review Board*

The local ordinance provisions are consistent with the purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as applicable state legislation and other local ordinances affecting historic properties in Oregon. As described in the West Linn Community Development Code Chapter 25.040 (revised to comply with current IGA), the Clackamas County Historic Review Board has thirteen identified duties and responsibilities. In summary, they include: review and rendering decisions on proposals to alter or demolish the exterior of Historic Landmarks; disseminating information to educate the public; the ongoing education and training of the Board and advising interest groups, agencies, boards, commissions, and citizens on matters relating to historic preservation within the city. In addition the newly established West Linn Historic Resources Advisory Board has nine identified duties as described in *Ordinance 1537.*

The City of West Linn currently has an Intergovernmental Agreement with Clackamas County for the shared use of their Historic Preservation Review Commission for review of any development proposals that impact identified cultural resources as well as designation of any new resources. In Chapter 25.040A (Attachment A) of the West Linn Community Development Code it states:

“For the purpose of this ordinance, the decisions regarding alterations within Historic District and recommendations for designation of Historic Districts shall be accomplished by the Clackamas County Historic Review Board with appointments and terms or service of the membership under the direction of Clackamas County.” Further described in Resolution No. 05-22 (Attachment C): “…Whereas, the County has generously assisted the City in the implementation of certain historic preservation objectives by actively sharing the use of and expertise of the membership of the existing Clackamas county Historic Board through an informal arrangement since the mid-1990’s; and, Whereas, it is found to be in the best interests for the

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1 *Bolton Neighborhood Plan. City of West Linn, Oregon.* Adopted 4-10-06.
On April 24, 2006, the City of West Linn adopted Ordinance 1537, the Historic Resources Advisory Board Ordinance (Attachment B). This Ordinance establishes a local Historic Resources Advisory Board with a membership of five regular members appointed for three year terms. The City of West Linn is currently in the process of recruiting volunteers to serve on the local Board. The duties of the HRAB consist of nine duties described in Ordinance 1537 O (3). Duties include educating and advising the public on matters related to historic preservation; monitoring the city’s historic inventories to ensure that they are updated and maintained; recommending property owner incentives to City Council to assist in the continued preservation of historic resources; working to provide an adequate and permanent facility for West Linn historic artifacts and materials; coordinating with Clackamas County Historic Review Board and other regional and state historic preservation groups to integrate West Linn preservation with statewide preservation initiatives.

The established Clackamas County Historic Review Board consists of seven members with a demonstrated interest in historic preservation within the community (Attachment D). Two members are architects, two are experienced contractors with historic preservation experience, one is a lawyer with land use law experience, one is the President of the Damascus Historical Society and one is a Forest Ranger.

**Analysis and Evaluation**

West Linn’s current Comprehensive Plan, local Ordinance and IGA with Clackamas County Historic Review Board (CCHRB) is consistent with the purposes of the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as applicable state legislation and other local ordinances affecting historic properties in Oregon. The City of West Linn satisfies the criteria for becoming a Certified Local Government.

As a CLG, the City of West Linn will need to be sure to maintain publicly accessible copies of minutes, staff reports and decisions regarding any development impacting the locally identified cultural resources within the jurisdiction, even if review is completed through the CCHRB. A formal list of these resources (cultural resources inventory) will also need to be established and maintained which is made accessible to the public. The existing Clackamas County Historic Resources inventory, Winterbrook’s inventory in 2003 and the inventory of the Willamette and Bolton neighborhoods established on SHPO’s Access Database all should be made accessible to the public.

A requirement providing for local representation by a West Linn resident on the CCHRB would be recommended if it would be possible to negotiate this with Clackamas County.

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2 Chapter 25.040A (Attachment A), West Linn Community Development Code.
Without such representation it is possible that decisions could be made which the local community does not agree with. If it is not feasible to negotiate such a requirement, it is recommended that once the local HRAB has been established that this Board perform an advisory (not quasi-judicial) review of all proposed development impacting locally identified cultural resources and that a recommendation made (approval, approval with conditions or denial) to the CCHRBB in time for their quasi-judicial review of the application. It is further recommended that an evaluation be made annually regarding the transfer of the quasi-judicial review from the CCHRBB to the local West Linn HRAB.

**Community Development Code Chapter 25**

West Linn’s Community Development Code Chapter 25 outlines the specific design standards and review procedures which must be followed when doing any kind of development which will impact identified cultural resources within the Willamette Neighborhood Conservation District. Resources were classified based upon the Clackamas County Cultural Resources Inventory that was completed in 1984. Resources have been identified as Primary Structures (1890-1920); Secondary Structures (built before 1925 but not identified by the CCCRI), and Contributing Structures (built after 1925). The remainder of the structures have been identified as non-contributing. **Chapter 25.060** establishes that no person may alter the exterior of any structure in a historic district in a manner as to affect its exterior appearance. This Chapter also establishes that all new construction within the historic district must be reviewed.

It is unclear why the structures within the district were assigned different classifications regarding their historic integrity since the design standards outlined in **Chapter 25.070** which pertain to new home construction and remodel do not provide different standards for resources with different levels of historic value or integrity. It is recommended that if a revision of this part of the code is attempted that either separate standards or guidelines be established for non-contributing structures, or that the map distinguishing the types of structures by historic value be eliminated. **Chapter 25.080** is based largely upon the *Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation* and it would be recommended that a section be added to this Chapter which states that these standards should be followed in any situation where it is not clear which West Linn design standard should be applied. Last, it is recommended that a one page clear and easy to read table be developed, along with a letter from the City, for distribution to owners of resources within the affected historic district. This table should outline what type of work requires certain levels of review by the City, and will ensure that all development, no matter how minor, goes through the proper review by the City of West Linn and the appropriate review board.

**Chapter 25.500** establishes a *Willamette Mixed Use Transitional Zone* in order to promote a desirable mix of residential land uses with limited commercial land uses. Uses in this district are intended to be compatible with the design and aesthetic qualities of the adjacent neighborhood. As defined in this Chapter, this zone is intended to implement the Willamette neighborhood plan as authorized by Ordinance 1515. It is recommended that the new HRAB evaluate the effectiveness of this zone and its current boundaries.
Willamette Conservation District

Willamette is described by the consultant’s from Winterbrook in 2003,

“The most notable urban-design feature of the district is the traditional orthogonal grid of streets with rectangular blocks and lots. Standard lots are small and narrow, though there are numerous larger parcels formed from joining standard-size lots together. Houses tend to have shallow setbacks and narrow side yards. The district lacks curbs and sidewalks, and there is no consistent planting of street trees. Original lot configurations have been obscured since the early years of development by assembling lots—usually two lots, occasionally three—to produce larger parcels. Of the 13 block-faces from the original grid lying within the district boundaries, only one retains a 6-lot configuration. Architecturally, the district showcases the first four decades of residential development in West Linn, from the Victorian styles of the 1890s and early 1900s to the Craftsman and Bungalow styles of the 1910s and 1920s. The district is particularly notable for its collection of Victorian houses, by far the largest and most intact such grouping in West Linn.”

While the Willamette Conservation District Overlay has produced designs within the zone that are compatible with the remainder of the district, the unfortunate number of new infill development houses has caused a potential problem with the establishment of a National Register District within the neighborhood. Since the way that Willamette originally developed was by constructing houses on essentially every other lot (as described in local folklore, perhaps this was due to the fact that after a property was purchased by the husband, the neighboring one could be purchased for a $1 by the wife). This has left the neighborhood vulnerable to infill development. Currently the neighborhood just barely has 51% of the properties which are contributing to a potential district. Even just a few years ago, when the Winterbrook team performed their evaluation in 2003, that number was higher, giving the Willamette neighborhood stronger historic integrity and a better chance at becoming a National Register Historic District. The percentage of contributing properties could continue to decrease as the number of new infill development houses continue to be constructed within the neighborhood. A way to prevent this sort of development in the future would be to change the zoning in this residential area to require a larger lot size, and decreased density. Any increase in density caused by the West Linn Comprehensive Plan Designation/Zoning will decrease the potential integrity of the district, even if the design standards established by the Conservation Overlay Zone are consistently applied. As an illustration of this phenomenon, it is interesting to note that the Willamette Neighborhood has seen seventeen houses constructed after 1950 with five constructed after 1995. By contrast the neighborhood of Holly Grove has seen only four houses constructed since 1950, with only one constructed in 1995.

Proposed Holly-Grove Conservation Zone

The neighborhood of Holly-Grove would benefit from the same design standards outlined in West Linn Community Development Code Chapter 25.040. The predominant styles within this neighborhood are quite different from those found in Willamette. The City’s design standards within Chapter 25.070 are essentially catered to the Willamette neighborhood’s style characteristics, however many of them are flexible enough to be revised and applied easily to the Holly-Grove neighborhood as well. Changes would need

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3Minor, Woodruff. Memo from Woodruff Minor, consulting Architectural Historian. 6/27/2003
to be made to the code to adjust for the inclusion of the Holly-Grove Conservation Zone. Either this Chapter would need to be made broader, and all specific references to “Willamette Town” removed, or an additional Chapter would need to be added tailored specifically to the Holly-Grove Neighborhood.

It is recommended that these standards be made broader and more standard, and supplemented by the *Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation*, for ease of administration by staff. Properties within established historic districts should be distinguished by their contributing or non-contributing status. It should be clearly stated that review of any new development or new additions should be required regardless of their contributing status. Review standards for new construction and additions to existing structures should be broken out and separated, for ease of administration by staff, as well as for clarity for homeowners and developers. Only demolition permits for properties with a non-contributing status should be eliminated from review by the designated board.

It is recommended that the newly established West Linn HRAB work with City staff to make the determination regarding how this Chapter should be revised to accommodate the needs of a new overlay zone. Once it is determined whether to revise *Chapter 25.070* or to add a new Chapter to accommodate the Holly-Grove Conservation Zone, representatives from the Bolton Neighborhood Association and the Bolton Zoning/Neighborhood Overlay group should be consulted regarding the implementation and the boundaries for the new conservation overlay zone. As described in the Findings portion of this report, the proposed boundary for this overlay zone would include the study area adjusted to remove the properties along Garden Street at the north.

This neighborhood is most heavily impacted by potential commercial development pressures. It is recommended that the City evaluate the Comprehensive Plan Designation/Zoning applied to the properties on the edge of this neighborhood. Unfortunately the reason that the five properties along Garden were demolished is that a zone change from residential to commercial was approved. Unless the City of West Linn can maintain the zoning in this neighborhood as residential, the Conservation Overlay Zone will not be enough to maintain the integrity of the historic properties within this district.
**Recommended Preservation Planning Goals**

1. Evaluate Willamette and Holly-Grove’s Comprehensive Plan Designation/Zoning to ensure protection of historic residential properties within each neighborhood. Willamette’s neighborhood needs to be protected against increased density and infill development. Holly-Grove’s neighborhood needs to be protected against commercial development.

2. **Willamette National Register District:**
   - Perform Reconnaissance Level Survey of neighborhood to the northeast of the existing Willamette Conservation District for possible inclusion within the potential Willamette National Register District.
   - Once reconnaissance level survey has been completed on neighborhood to the northeast, and a boundary has been defined, draft National Register Nomination for Willamette National Register District.

3. **Willamette Mixed Use Transitional Zone** should be evaluated by the new HRAB.

4. Evaluate the existing code (Chapter 25), work with staff, West Linn HRAB and neighborhood groups to establish Holly-Grove Conservation District with recommended boundaries. Revise Chapter 25 as necessary.

5. Establish West Linn Cultural Resources Inventory based upon SHPO’s database of inventoried properties for the Willamette and Holly-Grove neighborhoods. It is also possible to include the Clackamas County Cultural Resource Inventory, the properties surveyed in West Linn by Winterbrook in 2003, but their inventory would need to be updated and converted to the new standard SHPO format.

6. Establish West Linn HRAB with all of the duties outlined in **Ordinance 1537**. Negotiate with Clackamas County to ensure that a citizen of West Linn be appointed to the CCHRB, or ensure that the West Linn HRAB perform local advisory review of all development applications affecting cultural resources with a recommendation to the CCHRB. Ensure that all the requirements of a CLG are met including the adequate maintenance of minutes, staff reports and decisions for any development decisions impacting cultural resources.
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location of demolished houses on Garden.JPG
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