

Memorandum

Comprehensive Plan Update

October 20, 2015

To: Community Advisory Committee
From: Rich Faith, Senior Land Use Planner
Re: Historic Preservation Policy

INTRODUCTION

This memo presents policies pertaining to historic and cultural resource preservation that are being recommended by the Air, Land, Water, Wildlife and Hazards Subcommittee. The subcommittee discussed these policy topics at its Sept 2 and Sept 23 meetings. The policies are derived from existing policies in the County Comprehensive Plan and the recently adopted Sauvie Island/Multnomah Channel Rural Area Plan.

New text being added to existing policy language is underlined. Text being deleted is ~~struckout~~.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION POLICY

~~POLICY 16-1:~~ HISTORIC RESOURCES

~~It is the County's policy to r~~Recognize significant historic resources and ~~to~~ apply appropriate historic preservation measures to all designated historic sites.

STRATEGIES

- A. Maintain an inventory of significant historic resources which meet the following historical site criteria: ~~outlined below~~.

HISTORICAL SITE CRITERIA

1. Historical Significance – Property is associated with significant past events, personages, trends or values, and has the capacity to evoke one or more of the dominant themes of national or local history.
2. Architectural Significance (Rarity of Type and/or Style) – Property is a prime example of a stylistic or structural type, or is representative of a type once common and is among the last examples surviving in the County. Property is a prototype or significant work of an architect, builder or engineer noted in the history of architecture and construction in Multnomah County.

3. Environmental Considerations – Current land use surrounding the property contributes to an aura of the historic period, or property defines important space.
4. Physical Integrity – Property is essentially as constructed on original site. Sufficient original workmanship and material remain to serve as instruction in period fabrication.
5. Symbolic Value – Through public interest, sentiment, uniqueness or other factors, property has come to connote an ideal, institution, political entity or period.
6. Chronology – Property was developed early in the relative scale of local history or was an early expression of type/style.

~~B. Utilize the National Register of Historic Places, and the recommendations of the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation in the designation of historic sites.~~

B. Use the National Register of Historic Places, the Oregon Historic Sites Database, and local historical society databases in compiling an inventory of historic resources.

C. Develop and maintain a historical preservation ~~process~~ program for Multnomah County which includes:

1. A review of and compliance with the laws related to historic preservation.
2. ~~A program for~~ Ongoing identification and registration inventory of significant sites, working with area citizens groups, local historical societies, the Oregon Historical Society, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Oregon Natural History Museum and other historic and archeological associations.
3. Developing a handbook on historic preservation to assist County staff, area citizen groups, land owners and developers in understanding and using applicable federal and state programs.
4. Fostering, through ordinances or other means, the private restoration and maintenance of historic structures for compatible uses and development based on historic values.
5. Encouraging the installation of appropriate plaques or markers on identified sites and structures.

D. The Zoning Code should:

1. Amend the Historic Preservation overlay district to include a process for the owner of a historic resource to obtain a historic landmark designation.
- ~~1. Include a Historic Preservation overlay district which will provide for the protection of significant historic areas and sites.~~
- ~~2. Include conditional use provisions to allow new sites to be established to preserve historic structures and sites.~~
2. Amend the Historic Preservation overlay district to provide opportunities for owners of historic landmarks to preserve and maintain the resource by allowing as conditional uses, where possible, a use which can be shown to contribute to the preservation and reuse of the historic landmark.
3. Provide for a 120-day delay period for the issuance of a demolition permit or a building permit that substantially alters the historic nature of ~~the site or building~~ a historic landmark. During this period, a review of the land use permit application to demolish or substantially alter, including the impacts and possible means to offset the impacts, ~~should~~ would be undertaken.
- ~~4. On-site density transfer in order to protect historic areas and protect unique features.~~

CULTURAL RESOURCE PRESERVATION POLICY

~~POLICY 16-J~~: CULTURAL AREAS

~~It is the County's policy to p~~Protect cultural areas and archeological resources and ~~to~~ prevent conflicting uses from disrupting the educational and scientific value of known sites.

STRATEGIES

- A. Maintain information on file regarding the location of known archeological sites. Although not made available to the general public, this information will be used to insure the sites are not degraded through incompatible land use actions.
- B. ~~Coordinate with the State Archaeologist in~~ the State Historic Preservation Office regarding the identification and recognition of significant archeological resources.

C. Encourage landowners to notify state authorities upon discovering artifacts or other evidence of past cultures on their property.

~~D. Work with the LCDC Archeological Committee in devising equitable and effective methods of identifying and protecting archeological resources.~~

Policies from the adopted Sauvie Island/Multnomah Channel Rural Area Plan for Countywide application

Policy 3.9 Coordinate with Native American tribes and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to adopt a program to inventory, recover and protect archaeological and cultural resources and prevent conflicting uses from disrupting the scientific value of known sites. Adopt a process that includes timely notice to tribes and SHPO of applications that could impact cultural resource sites, and develop standards to evaluate comments received from the tribes and SHPO.

Policy 3.10 Require reporting of the discovery of Native American artifacts and other cultural resources to SHPO and the Native American tribes.

Policy 3.11 Where development is proposed on areas of cultural significance, encourage evaluation of alternative sites or designs that reduce or eliminate impacts to the resource.