

The Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School

2025 - Elk Rock Garden - Portland, Oregon



Session 1 - Materials Intensive: Wood
August 31 – September 5, 2025

Session 2 - Materials Intensive: Masonry
September 7 – September 12, 2025

Session 3 - Preservation Primer
September 14 – September 19, 2025



Acknowledgments

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National Park Service

Idaho State Parks

Idaho State Historical Society

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

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Rev. Dr. Dennis G. Payne, II, Pastor, First AME Zion Church

Polina Olsen, Historian and Tour Guide

Donald Peting, Field School Founder, Emeritus Associate Professor of Architecture, University of Oregon

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Nico Swartz, Lead Gardener, Elk Rock Garden Foundation

Al Williams, Preservationist and Founder, Preservation Services

Jenny Wilder, Historic Architecture Project Manager, Oregon Department of Transportation

Phillis Whitmore, Church Secretary, First AME Zion Church

Becky Wong, Senior Associate, Wiss, Janney, and Elstner Associates

Tim Wood, Senior Architectural Historian, AECOM

Background

The Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School (Field School) was founded in 1995 through the efforts of University of Oregon faculty member Don Peting, Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer Henry Kunowski, and U.S. Forest Service Historical Structures Specialist John Platz. It became the first academic program in the country to emphasize hands-on preservation work as a foundation for historic preservation education.

The inaugural Field School was held in 1995 at the Peter French Round Barn, built in 1883 in Harney County, Oregon. With future preservation already planned, the program began by directly contributing to local efforts. The following year, in 1996, participants worked at the 1870 Cape Blanco Lighthouse in Port Orford, Oregon. Field School relied on community support, even seeking a desk, chair, filing cabinet, and coffee maker through local newspaper ads.

Within its first three years, 192 participants attended. In 1998, Washington State joined Oregon as a partner and hosted its first Field School in 1999 at Fort Worden's Guard House in Port Townsend. This marked Field School's early success and demonstrated the growing interest among preservation agencies in the region.

In 2001, Field School held its first executive session, bringing together university, state, and federal stakeholders to build support. Idaho likely joined then, later hosting its first Field School in 2004 at Railroad Ranch in Harriman State Park. This expansion established Field School as a multi-state educational platform reaching preservation audiences throughout the Pacific Northwest.

By 2011, Field School had secured the full partnership that sustains it today, with sponsors including the University of Oregon, National Park Service, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Idaho Historical Society, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon SHPO, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, and Washington DAHP.

The program is recognized nationally for leadership in preservation education, technique, philosophy, and best practices—thanks to its founders, leadership, instructors, and guest lecturers. As the preservation field has evolved, Field School has adapted to include cultural landscapes, resiliency, sustainability, equity, and regulation.

Now guided by a new generation of directors, instructors, and partners, Field School continues to educate and serve the preservation community through hands-on work. Its contributors protect irreplaceable historic resources while strengthening the preservation community across the Northwest and beyond.

Rotating annually between Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, Field School remains a requirement of the University of Oregon's Historic Preservation program, a training resource for state and federal park staff, and an introductory course for those pursuing careers in the field. After nearly 30 years, it continues to be supported by seven agency partners whose oversight remains part of its permanent structure.

Current Field School Staff

Allison Geary, Field School Director

Allison Geary is the Director of Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School and a Historic Preservation Specialist/Architectural Historian at Hennebery Eddy Architects, Inc. in Portland, Oregon. In her role at Hennebery Eddy, Geary produces historic contexts, field condition assessments, building preservation plans, state and federal compliance documents, and historic structure reports. She also serves as a GIS specialist and is initiating wood species identification at their Portland office.

As Director of Field School, she is involved in all aspects of designing, planning, and implementing hands-on course work and curriculum in collaboration with the host agency, instructors, lecturers, and tour guides. She has participated in, assisted, coordinated, or presented at eight Field School programs. Geary has an M.S. in Historic Preservation from the University of Oregon and a B.A. in Studio Art and Ceramics from the University of Puget Sound. Prior work experience includes operating a small production woodworking business, finish carpentry, cabinetmaking, and teaching introductory woodworking classes. Being part of the Field School has been one of her greatest joys as it allows her to blend prior experience in the trades with her current career in historic preservation.

Marcel Brousseau, Field School Program Co-ordinator

Marcel Brousseau is an M.S. candidate in Historic Preservation at the University of Oregon. He is composing a thesis about the cultural legacy and preservation of the Houston Astrodome. His architectural interests include high steel construction, Indigenous built environments and cultural landscapes, and the architectures and infrastructures of national borders; he is experimenting with using narrative cartography and comics to write histories on these topics. He is also a Senior Instructor of English at Portland State University, researching and teaching courses on Latinx Comics, Indigenous Literature and Cinema, Border Cinema, Stories and Maps, and Textualities of Air Travel. He received a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from UC Santa Barbara. His other relevant work experience includes hardware retail, wood-flooring installation, and rough carpentry. This is his third Field School, and his second year as program assistant.

Sueann Brown, Field School Adviser

Sueann Brown is the Field School Adviser and recently retired from the National Park Service (NPS). During her time with the NPS she worked as a historical architect at Yosemite and Mount Rainier National Parks and finally as the Regional Historical Architect and Historic Structures Program Manager for the Pacific West Region. She holds a B.Arch from Virginia Tech and a M.S. in Historic Preservation from the University of Oregon. She has been actively involved in the PNWFS in a variety of capacities since she first attended in 1999.

Paras Bajaj, Program Assistant

Paras Bajaj is a designer, writer, and researcher with a background in architecture whose work explores Indigenous landscape systems, built environments, and rural–urban ecologies. He is pursuing a Master of Landscape Architecture at the University of Oregon, where his studies focus on how design can respond to ecological systems and cultural histories. As Program Assistant for the Pacific Northwest Field School, Paras supports marketing, outreach, and community-integrated fieldwork across cultural landscapes. His perspective is shaped by a practice that flows between places, connecting ecology, design, and culture through intent, engagement, and action.

Daisy Ohleyer, Field School Cook

Daisy is coming to us with a rich personal and familial connection to food and the art of feeding people. Descending from restaurateurs, farmers, and the best home cooks you could meet, their food philosophies are rooted in heartiness, locality, creativity, and love (the secret ingredient, always). They believe that a well fed population, grounded in local food, is a stronger one, and one more capable of envisioning a more whole future and enacting that change.

Daisy learned to cook as a wee child with the aid of their mother, beginning with simple dinners and desserts. Since then, Daisy has worked in and coordinated multiple kitchens run by Food For Lane County, starting at Grassroots Garden under the tutelage of Jamie Johnson. There, they honed their skills in menu creating, volunteer coordination, and meal execution. Prior, they learned the art of farming, complimenting their understanding of the food system and journey as a whole.

Outside of the kitchen, Daisy engages in a multitude of hobbies, often too many of which to keep track. They enjoy making and listening to music, writing poetry, drawing, making clothing, reading, and forming deep connections in their community. They also fancy themselves an amateur ecologist and often find themselves wandering the river and absorbing their environment.

They graduated from the University of Oregon in Spring of 2024 with a Bachelor’s of Arts in Environmental Studies with a minor in Indigenous Studies.

Hailing from the Bay Area, California, they have a deep appreciation for both diverse food and the fertile land it requires to produce it. They look forward to sharing with you their love of food and nourishment.

Elk Rock Garden Staff

Stephanie Brown

As Executive Director, Stephanie oversees all administrative functions for the historic Elk Rock Garden estate, including overseeing its restoration. She also collaborates with the tenant/partners who share the Elk Rock Garden campus, such as the Hardy Plant Society of Oregon; and forges community partnerships with colleges, universities and other nonprofits to offer unique educational opportunities at the garden. Previously, Stephanie served as the Director of Carousel Planning and Education at Restore Oregon, where she directed the preservation and rehoming of the historic Jantzen Beach Carousel. With over two decades of experience in nonprofit communications, fundraising, grant writing, and historic preservation, she has worked with organizations including OMSI, Oregon Ballet Theatre, and the Oregon Humane Society. A former faculty member at Portland Community College and an accomplished architectural color consultant, she has also guided large-scale restoration projects, including the award-winning reimagining of Portland’s Academy Theater.

Nico Schwartz

With a bachelor’s degree in Conservation Ecology, and a lifelong passion for plants and the environment, Nico is deeply committed to preserving and enhancing the health and natural beauty of Elk Rock Garden. His professional experience spans native plant propagation, removal of invasive plants, habitat restoration and volunteer leadership, making him particularly well-suited to this challenging role. Having previously worked with the Walker Basin Conservancy and Friends of Trees, Nico is grounded in a philosophy of sustainability and preservation, and aims to foster resilience in Elk Rock Garden’s landscape while also engaging with the community through hands-on stewardship.

Drew Beard

A “neighborhood historian,” Drew Beard runs Sellwood-Moreland History on Instagram, providing social media-based visual documentation of Sellwood-Moreland’s historical buildings and their preservation. Drew earned a PhD from the University of Oregon and has taught film studies courses at UO and Portland State University, where he also designed and led a special two-quarter course covering Portland’s architectural history. He serves as volunteer coordinator at Elk Rock Garden and is excited to document the UO Field School’s progress over the coming weeks.

Drew plans to provide video documentation of the Field School’s historic preservation work at Elk Rock Garden, consisting of three short videos (about 90 seconds each) chronicling each week’s projects, highlighting the hands-on integration of all aspects of preservation work (including interviews with students, faculty, participants). These will be used by both the University of Oregon and Elk Rock Garden to promote 2025 Field School on social media and elsewhere. Additionally, as a separate project, Drew has been asked to shoot footage for and compile a video commemorating the 30th anniversary of PNWFS.

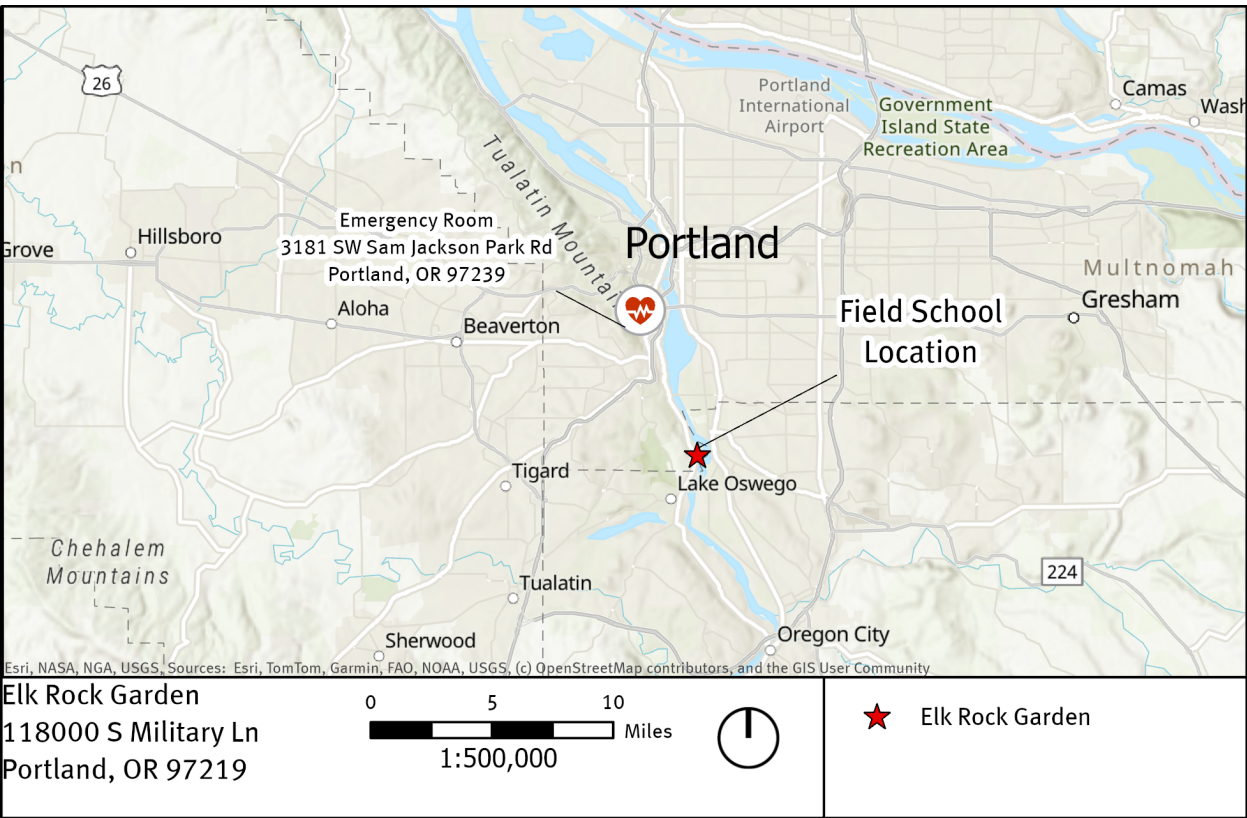
Accommodations

Field School staff, participants, students, instructors, and lecturers live, work, and dine at Elk Rock Garden. Housing is provided both indoors at the residence and outdoors at the site of a former swimming pool. Meals are prepared and served on site. Due to proximity to the Portland metropolitan area, some participants, instructors, and lectures have elected to commute

Safety

Field School has a long track record of safe practices. Do not partake in any activity that you feel unsafe performing. Inform Field School staff of any unsafe practices you witness. Personal protective equipment, including eye protection, hearing protection, and gloves, where applicable, should be worn. Always be aware of your surroundings to avoid trip hazards, keep a tidy work area, and do not rush or force tools and equipment. Keep loose clothing and hair away from moving parts. Practice the path of travel before operating power tools and machinery to make sure unanticipated obstacles are not encountered while the tool is powered.

Vicinity Map



Site Parking



Site Map



Site Context

The Elk Rock Garden estate was established in the 1890s by grain businessman and avid gardener Peter Kerr. The estate includes a 1916 residence and 10 acres of grounds. Upon Kerr’s passing in 1957, the property was donated to the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, with the provision that the 10-acre garden remain open to the public. In 1994, the Elk Rock Garden Foundation was established to maintain the expansive garden. In 2023, the foundation purchased the property to safeguard it from redevelopment and to perpetuate its preservation for future generations.

The mission of ERG is to conserve, restore and enhance the Elk Rock Garden property to serve as a nationally recognized historic garden and center for learning, where partner nonprofit organizations and gardening enthusiasts of all backgrounds can meet and collaborate on nature-based solutions that improve the health and beauty of cities. We believe in the value of garden landscapes to inspire joy, offer peaceful enjoyment, and promote biodiversity and climate-resilience.

The following historical resources offer background on Elk Rock Garden’s design and evolution:

- Historic photographs of the estate taken by Peter Kerr, on file at the Oregon Historical Society
- Original architectural drawings, on file at the Elk Rock Garden Foundation
- Planting plans and landscape drawing on file at the Olmsted Archives Collection and Elk Rock Rock Garden Foundation
- [“Elk Rock Garden,” Oregon Encyclopedia article by Eileen Fitzsimons](#)

Statement of Significance

The Elk Rock Garden was included in the Lake Oswego to Portland Transit Project Reconnaissance Level Survey in 2010. It is significant for its role in the development of the Dunthorpe Neighborhood in Portland, Oregon, and for its association with prominent citizen Peter Kerr.

The historic district is also likely eligible for listing under Criterion C as an outstanding example of Arts and Crafts architecture with vernacular Scottish influences. It is associated with Peter Kerr, who designed and completed much of the work on the property; master architect Ellis Lawrence, who designed the residence; and master landscape architects John C. Olmsted, Emanuel T. Mische, and Adolph Meyer, who shaped the expansive grounds.

The historic boundary includes the three tax parcels owned by the Elk Rock Garden Foundation. The period of significance, 1897–1957, spans from the establishment of the estate to its donation by the Kerr family to the Episcopal Bishop of Oregon following Peter Kerr’s death.

Physical Description

Elk Rock Garden is a 10-acre historic estate located on a bluff overlooking the Willamette River in the Dunthorpe neighborhood of Portland, Oregon. The property occupies a gently sloping, semi-wooded site and is accessed via a historic gate and driveway, leading to a main residence, a historic gardener’s cottage, and expansive grounds. The upper portion of the site, once a tennis court, was converted to a World War II Victory Garden and now serves as the visitor parking area. A historic gate house originally associated with the property remains uphill from the gardener’s cottage but is no longer within the Elk Rock Garden property boundary.

The primary residence was designed by architect Ellis Lawrence in 1915 and constructed between 1916 and 1918. The house was modeled after a photograph provided by Peter Kerr of Mousewald Manse, a Scottish residence in Dumfries, reflecting Kerr’s Scottish heritage and preferences. The structure blends Arts and Crafts sensibilities with Scottish vernacular forms.

The house is a two-and-a-half-story wood-framed building clad in harling (rough-cast cement over wire lath) with a foundation of board-formed concrete, still visible in the basement walls. The original roof was cedar shake, now covered with asphalt shingles. The building features a complex roofline with multiple gables and dormers. Windows throughout the house are primarily single-pane, double-hung one-over-one sash windows, along with several single-pane one-light wood casement windows. There are very few multi-light windows — the exception being 13 multi-paned units in the third-floor tower room.

Original leaded-glass windows are limited to three located in the stair tower, one fixed window in the rear main hall door, and one leaded-glass casement window currently held in storage. These are complemented by five non-original leaded-glass windows added during the 1970s chapel addition, including four operable casements and one fixed window in the vestibule. The chapel also features a clerestory window above the altar that brings in light from above.

Landscape features include basalt stone retaining walls, stairs, gravel paths, and a series of cultivated garden rooms organized around both formal and informal plantings. The Cascades, a historic man-made water feature inspired by recommendations from John C. Olmsted, remains a central design element. The garden layout includes lawn terraces, perennial beds, and scenic view corridors framed by the site’s mature tree canopy and hardscape features. A stone-lined fish pond with a masonry wall is located on the grounds and is currently undergoing maintenance to improve structural stability.

The estate’s design reflects a high level of integrity, with its architectural elements, cultural landscape, and historical layout largely preserved.

Project Scope

Potential hands-on projects at Elk Rock Garden include stone masonry stair and wall repair; restoration of The Cascades (the garden's central water feature), cultural landscape analysis and restoration; garden and tree work; and wood window and leaded-glass repair.

The Field School provides qualified instructors to guide work following the Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and preservation best practices. Preservation work at ERG is subject to participant enrollment and ability. Final project selection and completion will be determined during the three-week program but will not exceed the scope listed below. Proposed preservation projects at ERG include the following:

Residence

- Restoring (1-2) leaded-glass fixed windows at the rear entry door: There are three fixed leaded-glass windows at the rear wood door on the east elevation of the residence. The leaded-glass windows are in fair condition with evidence of repair including built-up solder to fortify leaded-glass assemblies and replacement glass panes.

The Field School proposes to remove two of the three leaded-glass windows and restore them. Restoration will retain all existing glass and replace deteriorated lead came.

- Restoring (1) leaded-glass casement window: A leaded-glass casement window was removed from the east elevation of the residence between 1957 and 2022. The leaded-glass window and wood frame are stored in the basement of the residence for safe keeping. The window is in poor condition. The leaded-glass assembly is buckling and the wood frame is damaged with moderate wood decay.

Field School proposes to remove the leaded-glass window from the wood frame and restore it by replacing deteriorated lead came in kind. All glass panes will be retained. The wood window frame will be restored by replacing deteriorated wood components in kind. All sound wood will be retained in the restoration. The window will be reinstalled in its original location by ERG when funding becomes available for the work.

- Repairing (4) leaded-glass windows at the chapel addition: The chapel addition was added to the residence in 1976, which places it outside the property's period of significance, however ERG will retain the chapel for program needs. There are four leaded-glass casement windows on the east elevation of the chapel addition. The windows are in poor condition with accelerated wood decay at bottom window rails.

Field School proposes to repair existing windows to teach best preservation practice and technique. Wood will be repaired to stabilize leaded glass and deteriorated wood components will be replaced with in-kind wood Dutchmans.

- Reconstructing wood lattice screens at radiator doors: Interior radiators are enclosed within wood cabinets at the residence's interior. Cabinet doors are covered with wood lattice to conceal radiators, provide ventilation, and transfer heat. Radiator cabinet door screens are in fair-to-poor condition throughout the residences. While many oak lattice screens are intact, over a dozen are broken.

Field School proposes to develop a process for the repair and replacement of broken oak lattice screens. New screens will match existing screens in wood species, dimensions, color, and finish.

Masonry Rock Wall

- Repair of two rock wall slides and failing stair at the bluff rock wall: There is a long dry-stacked masonry wall along the eastern boundary of ERG. There are visible sections of concrete footing, however it is not known if the entire length of the wall is supported by a concrete footing. There are two 8-foot sections of the rock wall and stone steps that have failed with the settlement of the hill and deferred maintenance.

Field School proposes to repair failed rock wall sections to improve visitor safety at ERG. Project work includes resetting displaced stone by hand in the dry-stacked wall on top of the existing concrete footing (where it exists). A level platform will be constructed below the northern failed section to provide a safe working environment. Modification of the rock wall at the failed south section will be done entirely from the existing pedestrian path. Work at the rock wall will only impact areas previously impacted. Digging will not be required, machinery will not be used to lift displaced stone, and loose dirt will be contained at the site.

The Cascades Water Feature

- Maintenance of the Cascades water feature (photo 10): The Cascades was originally suggested by John Charles Olmsted and utilizes diverted spring water which cascades down man-made concrete lined pools, as it has for over 100 years. However, deferred maintenance, and the accumulation of sediment, biogrowth, and debris over time have slowed the flow of water, and the water feature is no longer functioning optimally.

The restoration of the Cascades water feature will involve the removal of built-up sediment from the existing man-made water feature, the removal of invasive plant species, and the replanting of native vegetation in new topsoil. The goal will be to improve the flow of the existing water source. The West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District and the Oswego Lake Watershed Council are supportive of Field School doing this work to improve the health of the watershed.

Work will begin at the bottom of the water feature and proceed towards the top. New plantings will be established in new topsoil, and young plantings will be used. Digging beyond topsoil and previous disturbed soil will not exceed 6 inches.

Staging for projects will occur near project areas, adjacent to the residence, or at dedicated work areas along existing paved or gravel paths. No ground disturbance is anticipated to complete projects. All work will be conducted by hand, not machinery, in previously disturbed areas.

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August 31 - September 5 • Session 1 • Materials Intensive: Wood
2025 Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School • Elk Rock Garden, Portland, Oregon

Time	Sunday 8/31	Monday 9/1	Tuesday 9/2	Wednesday 9/3	Thursday 9/4	Friday 9/5	Saturday 9/6
7:00 AM		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
8:00 AM		Tour/Craft 8am Tour of Project Sites	Workshop/Craft (continued) Schlicker & Williams	Field Trip Albina Churches	Workshop/Craft (continued) Schlicker & Williams	Workshop/Craft (continued) Schlicker & Williams	Travel Depart to airport on FS van or via personal vehicle
		10am Workshop/Craft Schlicker & Williams			Wood Pathology Workshop Radiojevic	Wood Identification Workshop Radiojevic	
Noon		Bag lunch at work sites	Bag lunch at work sites	Bag lunch on tour	Bag lunch at work sites	Bag lunch at work sites	
1:00 PM	Travel Arrive from airport in FS van or via personal car	Workshop/Craft (continued) Schlicker & Williams	Workshop/Craft (continued) Schlicker & Williams	Panel Discussion Albina Churches (1:30pm-2:30pm)	Workshop/Craft (continued) Schlicker & Williams	Workshop/Craft (continued) Schlicker & Williams	
4:30 PM	Check in at Elk Rock Garden (ERG) 3pm-5:30	Clean-up/Rest	Clean-up/Rest	Remainer of afternoon free	Clean-up/Rest	Clean-up/Rest	
6:00 PM	Dinner at ERG	Dinner at ERG	Dinner at ERG	Dinner at ERG	Dinner at ERG	Closing BBQ at ERG	
7:00 PM	Evening Lecture Allison Geary: <i>Introduction to the Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School</i>	Evening Lecture Stephanie Donovan- Brown & Caity Abrahms: <i>The Elk Rock Garden Foundation and National Register 101: Eligibility, Process, and Implications</i>	Evening Lecture Tim Wood: <i>Cultural Resource Management and Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966</i>	Evening Lecture Suzana Radiojevic: <i>Wood Science Applied to Preservation of Wood in Historic Buildings</i>	Evening Lecture Shannon Sardell: <i>Avoiding Catastrophe with Condition Assessment at Hlāwliṃṣa Talapónsanwaas (Revitalization of First Church) in Kamiah, Idaho</i>	Discussion & wrap-up of week	
8:00 PM	End of Day	End of Day	End of Day	End of Day	End of Day	End of Week	

PROJECTS: Window repair and maintenance; wood lattice repair; mill work and finishing; wood column stabilization; leaded-glass restoration; and landscape restoration.

Session 1

Instructors

Suzana Radivojevic

Suzana Radivojevic, Ph.D., is a Wood Scientist specializing in the assessment and material investigation of wood-based materials in historic and contemporary structures and objects. She has consulted on numerous historic preservation projects with her practice, Ligno Logic LLC, based in Eugene, OR. Radivojevic has taught at the University of Oregon Department of Architecture, Historic Preservation Program, and the UO Historic Preservation Pacific Northwest Field School since 2013. She developed and delivered lectures, training and education programs for various academic, government and professional entities. Radivojevic holds a Ph.D. in Wood Science from the University of Toronto and a B.Sc.F.E. from the University of Belgrade.

David Schlicker

David is well-versed in the history of stained glass and has created period pieces in Victorian, Art Deco, Art Nouveau Arts and Crafts, and Gothic styles, as well as creating pieces to fit more contemporary themes. He possesses a thorough knowledge of early stained glass masters in the United States, being particular with the Povey Brothers Studio, a major stained glass studio in Portland in the early to mid 1900s.

Al Williams

Al began his career in 1984 working at Grand Teton National Park on the trail crew, where he constructed log bridges using axes and chainsaws and repaired CCC era stone walls. In 2004, Al began serving as the Principal Preservation Specialist and Trainer at the National Park Service’s Western Center for Historic Preservation (WCHP). Al’s background in historic preservation training includes log construction, log repair/replacement, historic window and door construction (replacement and repair), replicating mill work to produce historic profiles on windows, doors and decorative trim, foundation and stone repair, mortar analysis, condition assessment of historic buildings and structures, drainage and moisture mitigation, and pest exclusion. Al was a mentor in the Preservation and Skills Training program (PAST) which provides historic preservation training to NPS employees. After 32 years at Grand Teton National Park, he retired in 2016.

Tour

Albina Churches

Field School will tour historically Black churches in Albina, Portland to learn about their histories, view church architecture from the twentieth century, and admire stained-glass arrangements. At 12:30pm, the tour will conclude at the First AME Zion Church. At 1:00 pm we will have a panel with church leaders, historians, and experts on opportunities and challenges experienced when preserving and maintaining historic church buildings in Portland’s Albina neighborhood. The panel will discuss historic context, significance, preservation, funding challenges, displacement, gentrification, and visions for the future.

See tour handout for additional information

Lectures

(8/31) -Introduction to the Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School

This presentation will provide a brief history of PNWFS and introduce the 2025 PNWFS program, projects, curriculum, and expectations.

Presenter:

Allison Geary is the Director of the PNWFS, see Field School staff biography for additional information.

(9/1) - The Elk Rock Garden Foundation and National Register 101: Eligibility, Process, and Implications

This presentation will first include a brief introduction to the Elk Rock Garden Foundation and future preservation efforts of the site. The second portion will introduce the National Register of Historic Places, the federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation for their historical significance. We’ll discuss what the National Register is, how properties get listed, and why individuals and communities might pursue this designation. The session will also clarify the implications of being listed—covering both the restrictions and the potential incentives, such as grants, tax benefit programs, and building code variances. Finally, we’ll briefly touch on the role of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in administering the nomination process and promoting preservation at the state level.

Presenters:

Stephanie Donovan-Brown is the Executive Director of the Elk Rock Garden Foundation, see ERG staff biography for additional information.

Caitlyn Ewers Abrahms is the National Register Program Coordinator at the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, where she provides technical and administrative support to people nominating properties to the National Register. Her work supports the recognition and commemoration of historic places significant to communities across the state of Oregon.

(9/2) - Cultural Resource Management and Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

This lecture will provide an introduction to the field of Cultural Resource Management, discuss compliance with Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act NHPA of 1966, and examine a case study of how one federal agency has managed their cultural resources.

Presenter:

Tim Wood is a Senior Architectural Historian at AECOM’s Portland, Oregon office. He is a graduate of the University of Oregon’s Historic Preservation Program where he focused on cultural resource management. He has provided consultation services to multiple federal agencies and state and local governments across the country, including the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam. He is experienced in completing cultural resource surveys,

cultural resources management plans, HABS/HAER documentations, and memorandum of agreement documents. He also provides expertise in the history of the New Deal and Works Progress Administration projects in Oregon.

(9/3) - Wood Science Applied to Preservation of Wood in Historic Buildings

This presentation introduces the basic scientific concepts of anatomy, chemistry, and properties of wood in the context of building pathology, condition assessment methodology, and preservation of wood in cultural resources.

Presenter:

Suzana Radivojevic, Ph.D., is a Wood Scientist specializing in the assessment and material investigation of wood-based materials in historic and contemporary structures and objects. See instructor biography for more information.

(9/4) - Avoiding Catastrophe with Condition Assessment : Changing the project scope at Hiláwlimqsa Talapónsanwaas (Revitalization of First Church) in Kamiah, Idaho

While conducting a required condition assessment for the Nez Perce First Church for the National Fund for Sacred Places grant program, a sudden discovery changed the scope of work and project timeline. This presentation will discuss the process of condition assessment, the discovery, changes in project direction, and the current status of the project.

First Church, also known as First Indian Presbyterian Church, was built in 1873 for the Nez Perce Tribe. It has undergone a series of changes in design and size over the past 152 years but has been in continued service to the tribe and the surrounding community. First Church was awarded a \$100,000 matching grant in 2021 from the National Fund for Sacred Places grant program which is administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation to support vibrant congregations in historic sacred places to advance the common good.

Presenter:

Shannon Sardell is a licensed historical architect, and Founding Principal of 5/4 Architecture, in Couer d'Alene, Idaho. She has over 25 years of experience working in field of historic preservation in the Northwest. Shannon serves as a technical adviser for the Idaho Heritage Trust and regularly works with the Idaho State Historical Society, the Idaho State Parks Department, and other programs that support heritage resources. She has consulted on a wide variety of building types that include historic theaters, log cabins, masonry homesteads, barns, and one-room schoolhouses across all of Idaho.

Prior to her work with Idaho Heritage Trust and the development of her own architecture firm, Shannon taught in the School of Architecture and Environment at the University of Oregon for 10 years. During that time, she directed the Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School Program and taught additional courses in historic preservation, historic building material technology, and historic building documentation.

September 7 - September 12• Session 2 • Materials Intensive: Stone and Harling

2025 Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School • Elk Rock Garden, Portland, Oregon

Time	Sunday 9/7	Monday 9/8	Tuesday 9/9	Wednesday 9/10	Thursday 9/11	Friday 9/12	Saturday 9/13
7:00 AM		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
8:00 AM		Tour/Craft 8am Tour of Project Sites	Workshop/Craft (continued) Ash & Rea & Williams	Field Trip South Auditorium District	Workshop/Craft (continued) Ash & Williams	Workshop/Craft (continued) Ash & Williams	Travel Depart to airport on FS van or via personal vehicle
Noon		10am Workshop/Craft Ash & Williams			Harling Pathology Workshop Rea & Wong		
1:00 PM	Travel Arrive from airport in FS van or via personal car	Bag lunch at work sites Workshop/Craft (continued) Ash & Williams	Bag lunch at work sites Workshop/Craft (continued) Ash & Rea & Williams	Bag lunch on tour Free afternoon	Bag lunch at work sites Workshop/Craft (continued) Ash & Williams	Bag lunch at work sites Workshop/Craft (continued) Ash & Williams	
4:30 PM	Check in at Elk Rock Garden (ERG) 3pm-5:30	Clean-up/Rest	Clean-up/Rest		Clean-up/Rest	Clean-up/Rest	
6:00 PM	Dinner at ERG	Dinner at ERG	Dinner at ERG	Dinner at ERG	Dinner at ERG	Closing BBQ at ERG	
7:00 PM	Evening Lecture Allison Geary: Introduction to the Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School	Evening Lecture Stephanie Donovan- Brown : The ERG Foundation & Preservation Plan	Evening Lecture Josette Katcha: Bridging the Past and Future: Mitigating Demolition of the Historic Hood River- White Salmon Bridge	Evening Lecture Becky Wong: Evaluation of Harling Cladding	Evening Lecture Carin Carlson: What Makes a Rehabilitation Project Successful?	Discussion & wrap-up of week	
8:00 PM	End of Day	End of Day	End of Day	End of Day	End of Day	End of Week	

PROJECTS: Window repair and maintenance; stone wall repair and stabilization; harling repair; and landscape restoration.

Session 2

Instructors

Alan Ash

Trained in traditional masonry techniques in the U.K., Alan Ash specializes in dry-stone stacking and historic masonry restoration. He brings expert instruction in stone wall and stair repair, with a focus on durable, context-sensitive interventions.

Tim Rea

Tim Rea is a masonry restoration specialist with over 30 years of experience, including two decades in supervisory roles. He serves as Oregon Branch Superintendent for Technical Waterproofing, focusing on historic façade restoration and exterior envelope repair. Among the first West Coast masons to earn the International Masonry Institute's Historic Preservation Certificate, Tim brings rare expertise in mortar design, lime systems, tuckpointing, stucco, and restoration strategies for traditional and modern cements. His portfolio includes projects at the Watzek House, Hope Abbey Mausoleum, Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, and University of Oregon's National Historic Landmark buildings. A past Field School instructor, Tim combines technical depth with hands-on teaching, giving students both the science and craft of historic masonry.

Al Williams

Al began his career in 1984 working at Grand Teton National Park on the trail crew, where he constructed log bridges using axes and chainsaws and repaired CCC era stone walls. In 2004, Al began serving as the Principal Preservation Specialist and Trainer at the National Park Service's Western Center for Historic Preservation (WCHP). Al's background in historic preservation training includes log construction, log repair/replacement, historic window and door construction (replacement and repair), replicating mill work to produce historic profiles on windows, doors and decorative trim, foundation and stone repair, mortar analysis, condition assessment of historic buildings and structures, drainage and moisture mitigation, and pest exclusion. Al was a mentor in the Preservation and Skills Training program (PAST) which provides historic preservation training to NPS employees. After 32 years at Grand Teton National Park, he retired in 2016.

Rebecca Wong

Rebecca Wong, Senior Associate at Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE), specializes in historic preservation and materials conservation and is an architectural historian in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards. Ms. Wong has performed investigations, condition assessments, repair design, and construction observation services for various facade systems, including brick masonry cavity and mass walls, as well as concrete, limestone, granite, marble, terra cotta, and wood on both contemporary and historically significant buildings and structures.

Prior to joining WJE, Ms. Wong was a project manager with the U.S. federal government, where she managed historic preservation projects at a National Historic Landmark. She is knowledgeable and experienced in the application of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation and National Park Service Technical Preservation Briefs. She communicated regularly with state historic preservation offices, the National Park Service's National Landmarks Program, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Tour

South Auditorium District

Field School will tour the South Auditorium District and South Portland. The first part of the tour will be guided by architectural historians affiliated with the Oregon Department of Transportation, Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc., and Docomomo NW Chapter. The second portion of the tour will led by local historian and author Polina Olsen, who has written extensively on Jewish history in Portland. Together, the group will discuss the area's layered history, urban renewal, Modern architecture, and compliance history related to the formerly proposed SW Corridor and Ross Island Bridge Realignment projects.

See tour handout for additional information

Lectures

(9/7) - Introduction to the Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School

This presentation will introduce the 2025 PNWFS program, projects, curriculum, and expectations. This presentation will also provide a brief history of PNWFS.

Presenter:

Allison Geary is the Director of the PNWFS, see Field School staff biography for additional information.

(9/8) - The Elk Rock Garden Foundation and Preservation Planning

This presentation will include a brief introduction to the Elk Rock Garden Foundation and discuss future preservation efforts of the site.

Presenter:

Stephanie Donovan-Brown is the Executive Director of the Elk Rock Garden Foundation, see ERG staff biography for additional information.

(9/9) - Bridging the Past and Future: Mitigating Demolition of the Historic Hood River-White Salmon Bridge

This session explores the intersection of preservation and progress through the case study of the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Replacement Project in the Columbia River Gorge. The historic 1924 bridge – an iconic lifeline connecting two states and multiple communities – now ranks just 6 out of 100 in structural sufficiency and requires replacement. We will examine how Section 106 compliance addresses situations where demolition is the only viable option and explore creative approaches to mitigating the bridge's loss. Supported by public funds and managed by multiple local, state, and federal agencies, the project serves as a model for the complexity of cultural resource management in real-world infrastructure projects.

Presenter:

Josette is a historical architect in White Salmon, WA and the founder of Pacific Preservation, a firm dedicated to making preservation and design accessible to rural communities in the PNW. With experience working with public agencies like the National Park Service, General Services Administration, and state parks, she specializes in balancing the protection of natural and cultural resources. She is currently serving as the public design and historic preservation consultant for the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Replacement Project, helping guide the Section 106 process and mitigation for removal of the existing historic bridge within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

(9/10) - Evaluation of Harling Cladding

The lecture will have a brief introduction on the history and composition of Harling Cladding. The presenter will describe the typical performance and behavior of the material, which can lead to distress in situ. Typical conditions and how to identify and evaluate damage, distress, and deterioration will be covered. Attendees will be able to use this presentation discussion as a primer to a hands-on condition assessment workshop the following day.

Presenter:

Becky Wong is a Senior Assocaite at Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, in Seattle Washington. See instructor biographies for more information.

(9/11) - What Makes a Rehabilitation Project Successful?

Many factors, beyond preservation, influence rehabilitation designs. We'll take a high-level look at several completed projects in Portland and the western region, learn how they addressed specific challenges, and discuss successes relative to preservation, occupants, and the environment.

Presenter:

Carin Carlson is a principal and historical architect with Hennebery Eddy Architects in Portland, Oregon. She leads Hennebery Eddy's Historic Resources Group, working with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as private stewards of historic properties in the pacific west, mountain, and Alaska regions. Carin's professional work spans from determining resources eligible for the National Register to major rehabilitation projects, and everything in-between. Carin served 8 years on the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission, leads courses and workshops through the University of Oregon's Preservation Program, and facilitates training workshops for National Park Service staff through the Historic Preservation Training Center. She holds a Master of Science in

Historic Preservation from the University of Oregon and a Bachelor of Architecture from California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo. Carin was named a Recognized Professional by the Association for Preservation Technology in 2024.

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September 14 – 19 • Session 3 • Preservation Primer and Cultural Landscapes
2025 Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School • Elk Rock Garden, Portland, Oregon

Time	Sunday 9/14	Monday 9/15	Tuesday 9/16	Wednesday 9/17	Thursday 9/18	Friday 9/19	Saturday 9/20
7:00 AM		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
8:00 AM		Tour/Craft 8am Tour of Project Sites 10am Workshop/Craft Germano & Williams	Workshop/Craft (continued) Germano, Matthews, & Williams	Field Trip East Portland/ Grand Ave Historic District	Workshop/Craft (continued) Germano, Matthews, & Williams Photography Workshop Cowan	Workshop/Craft (continued) Germano, Matthews, & Williams Repeat Photography Workshop Matthews	Travel Depart to airport on FS van or via personal vehicle
Noon		Bag lunch at work sites	Bag lunch at work sites	Bag lunch on tour	Bag lunch at work sites	Bag lunch at work sites	
1:00 PM	Travel Arrive from airport in FS van or via personal car	Workshop/Craft (continued) Germano & Williams	Workshop/Craft (continued) Germano, Matthews, & Williams	Free afternoon	Workshop/Craft (continued) Germano, Matthews, & Williams Photography Workshop Cowan	Workshop/Craft (continued) Germano, Matthews, & Williams	
4:30 PM	Check in at Elk Rock Garden (ERG) 3pm- 5:30	Clean-up/Rest	Clean-up/Rest		Clean-up/Rest	Clean-up/Rest	
6:00 PM	Dinner at ERG	Dinner at ERG	Dinner at ERG	Old Town Brewery and Baby Doll Pizza (MLK)	Dinner at ERG	Closing BBQ at ERG	
7:00 PM	Evening Lecture Allison Geary: <i>Introduction to the Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School</i>	Evening Lecture Eileen Fitzsimons & Brandon Spencer-Hartle: <i>Peter Kerr, Garden Creator and Historic Designation Programs, Regulations, and Incentives</i>	Evening Lecture Larissa Rudnicki: <i>The Royal Treatment: A Review of the Royal Oaks Mobil Manor</i>	Evening Lecture Harley Cowan: <i>Let's Make History: Heritage Documentation Photography</i>	Evening Lecture Jenny Wilder, Ben Carlson, Candice Naste: <i>Collaborative Preservation: The Look-Out at Cape Foulweather</i>	Discussion & wrap-up of week	
8:00 PM	End of Day	End of Day	End of Day	End of Day	End of Day	End of Week	

Session 3

Instructors

Harley Cowan

Harley Cowan is a Portland-based photographer and architect whose large-format work focuses on heritage documentation and preservation. His fellowship research includes contributions to the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) at the Library of Congress and other archives. In 2022 he joined the Arctic Circle Expeditionary Residency, and in 2020 received the Van Evera Bailey Fellowship to photograph undocumented and at-risk heritage sites across Oregon. In 2019 he was inducted into the Atomic Photographers Guild for his documentation of the Manhattan Project, and in 2018 received the Vernacular Architecture Forum's Access Award. Earlier, he was selected as a test photographer for FILM Ferrania's P30 Alpha film.

His photography has been exhibited nationally with the National Park Service, Port of Portland, Oregon Historical Society, and supported by Oregon's Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC). It has appeared in publications such as Diffusion, Field Notes, This Place, and Washington State Magazine. Harley has held residencies with the National Park Service and University Club of Portland, and has lectured widely, including for the Portland Art Museum, Society of Architectural Historians, and the Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School. His work is included in SAH Archipedia.

A graduate of Washington State University, Harley served eight years on the Professional Advisory Board for its School of Design & Construction. Early in his career, he worked in the nuclear industry, with studies also taking him to Far Eastern State Technical University in Vladivostok, Russia.

Vida Germano

Vida Germano currently serves as the Historic Structures and Cultural Landscapes Program Manager for the National Park Service's Pacific West Region with 21 years of experience in cultural landscape management in the public sector. Her work focuses on documenting and preserving cultural landscapes and historic structures throughout the western continental United States and the Pacific Islands of Hawaii, Guam, Saipan, and American Samoa. She led an award-winning interdisciplinary team on a multi-year project to develop a strategy to enhance the resiliency of cultural landscapes affected by wildland fire, flooding, and sea level rise, among other environmental hazards. In 2020, she received an honorary membership with the American Society of Landscape Architects for her cultural landscape preservation career. Vida is a graduate of the University of Oregon's Historic Preservation Program.

Laurie Matthews

Laurie Matthews, FASLA, is an Instructor in the Landscape Architecture Department and Historic Preservation Program, and Director of Preservation Planning + Design at MIG. She is a nationally recognized expert in cultural landscapes and preservation planning and design. Her work has helped steward some of the most iconic historic

Seashore. Laurie has an M.L.A. and B.L.A. from the University of Oregon, and a B.A. in Art from Lewis & Clark College. She is the Historic American Landscape Survey representative for Oregon and serves on the board of Restore Oregon. She has garnered national and regional awards for her work, and frequently speaks at national conferences on historic preservation and design.

Laurie is fascinated by the complexities and stories associated with landscapes and the history they reveal, and her work is guided by the principle that landscape preservation requires managing rather than halting change. Laurie's analytical and communication skills enable her to readily identify issues and clearly outline potential choices and tradeoffs related to analysis, design, and management of cultural landscapes. places in the country such as Yosemite National Park, Crater Lake National Park, and Point Reyes National

Al Williams

Al began his career in 1984 working at Grand Teton National Park on the trail crew, where he constructed log bridges using axes and chainsaws and repaired CCC era stone walls. In 2004, Al began serving as the Principal Preservation Specialist and Trainer at the National Park Service's Western Center for Historic Preservation (WCHP). Al's background in historic preservation training includes log construction, log repair/replacement, historic window and door construction (replacement and repair), replicating mill work to produce historic profiles on windows, doors and decorative trim, foundation and stone repair, mortar analysis, condition assessment of historic buildings and structures, drainage and moisture mitigation, and pest exclusion. Al was a mentor in the Preservation and Skills Training program (PAST) which provides historic preservation training to NPS employees. After 32 years at Grand Teton National Park, he retired in 2016.

Tour

East Portland/Grand Avenue Historic District

Field School will travel to the Architectural Heritage Center to learn about the organization and visit its current exhibits, including new exhibit "When Doors Open: Places of Pride." Afterwards, the group will tour the National Register listed East Portland/Grand Avenue Historic District and experience the center's unique architectural collection located in a nearby warehouse. Guests from local preservation firms and agencies will join and contribute to discussion about historic districts, rehabilitation opportunities, tax incentives, and transportation modifications that could improve the district's walkability and pedestrian comfort.

See tour handout for additional information

Lectures

(9/14) - Introduction to the Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School

This presentation will introduce the 2025 PNWFS program, projects, curriculum, and expectations. This presentation will also provide a brief history of PNWFS.

Presenter:

Allison Geary is the Director of the PNWFS, see Field School staff biography for additional information.

(9/15) - Peter Kerr, Garden Creator and Historic Designation Programs, Regulations, and Incentives

This two-part presentation will include public historian Eileen Fitzsimons's discoveries about Elk Rock Garden's history and maker Peter Kerr. In addition, it will also outline the different historic resource types recognized by the City of Portland and summarize the benefits and restrictions that apply to designated landmark properties.

Presenters:

Eileen Fitzsimons is a public historian who has written about local history for The Bee newspaper for more than 20 years. She has led walking tours for the Architectural Heritage Center, written National Register nominations, and authored several entries in the online Oregon Encyclopedia, including two about Peter Kerr and Elk Rock Garden. Ms. Fitzsimons spent four years as undergardener at Elk Rock Garden when she began researching its history and maker.

Brandon Spencer-Hartle is the Historic Resources Program Manager for the City of Portland, Oregon.

(9/16) - The Royal Treatment: A Review of the Royal Oaks Mobil Manor

This presentation will provide a review of the historicity of the Royal Oaks Mobil Manor, a mobile home park in Southern Oregon, due to Section 106 obligations. While stepping through significance and integrity, this case study also highlights the success and advantages of additionally applying the cultural landscape criteria to a site reflective of human activity and patterns. We will dissect the configuration of the Royal Oaks Mobil Manor through a discussion of its origins and influences (and history in general of mobile home parks), and offer an alternative approach to evaluating these resources often plagued with opinions of inadequacy and unimportance.

For the last 12+ years, Larissa Rudnicki has been an architectural historian with the Oregon Department of Transportation working daily with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Before realizing she did not want to play in the dirt, she received her undergraduate degree from Marquette University in Archaeology and Art History. Larissa eventually traded in metal, "high-style" Chicago skyscrapers for wooden, leafy scrapers of the sky and received her graduate degree from the University of Oregon in Historic Preservation. Continuing her affiliation with the UO HP program, Larissa is the co-director of the Historic Preservation Program and instructs courses about understanding and recognizing the many facets, faces, and themes of the built environment. She is an advocate for mobile homes, bowling alleys, roller skating rinks, mimetic architecture, and dingbat buildings, in addition to unraveling the true origin(s)

of cribbage.roller skating rinks, mimetic architecture, and dingbat buildings, in addition to unraveling the true origin(s) of cribbage.

(9/17) - Let's Make History: Heritage Documentation Photography

This lecture will discuss large-format film photography and its origins and use in the Heritage Documentation Programs (HDP) of the National Park Service. This will include an overview of the Secretary of the Interior Standard and Guidelines for Architectural and Engineering Documentation, the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), and Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS), as they relate to photography. We will take a look at some recent documentation projects in the Northwest.

Presenter:

Harley Cowan is a photographer and architect from Portland, Oregon. For additional information, see instructor biographies.

He is a Van Evera Bailey Fellow and recipient of the Access Award from Vernacular Architecture Forum. He was inducted into the Atomic Photographers Guild in 2019 for his photography of the Manhattan Project at Hanford, Washington. Harley has held residencies with the National Park Service, University Club of Portland, and the Arctic Circle Expeditionary Residency in Svalbard. He was a Field School student in 2016 at Mount Rainier National Park.

(9/16) - Collaborative Preservation: The Look-Out at Cape Foulweather

This talk will introduce the ongoing restoration and rehabilitation of the 1930's Look-Out at Cape Foulweather, a coastal giftshop and whale watching wayside owned by Oregon State Parks. Representatives from the owner, design team, and construction contractor will share perspectives on balancing preservation goals with practical constraints, offering students insight into the collaborative processes that guide real-world rehabilitation projects. The discussion will highlight professional pathways within the field of preservation.

Presenters:

Ben Carlson is the Director of Preconstruction at Bremik Construction, a Pacific Northwest-based general contractor. Over his 18-year career with the company, Ben has advanced through the ranks and currently leads Bremik's preconstruction and estimating teams. A proud University of Oregon alumnus, Ben holds degrees in Architecture and Historic Preservation. His professional passions include the adaptive reuse of the region's historic buildings, sustainable construction practices, and mentoring the next generation of industry professionals. Ben's portfolio features several notable projects, including the transformation of Washington High School, Towne Storage, the Columbia River Maritime Museum Depot Building, Fort Stevens Guardhouse, and Historic Fire Station No. 7—now home to Bremik's Portland headquarters. Outside of work, Ben enjoys spending time with his family and exploring the outdoors through camping and backpacking adventures around the world.

Candace Naste is Project Manager and Senior Designer with Architectural Resources Group. With nearly 20 years of experience in the architectural industry her portfolio includes extensive work on complex projects involving historic buildings and sites. Candace has served as Project Manager for numerous public and private clients on a

wide range of project types including preservation planning, renovation work in historic buildings, seismic upgrades of public and government buildings, conditions assessments of artwork and monuments, as well as ground-up construction. On these projects, she has filled the roles of Project Manager, Project Lead, and Designer. Candace brings her detail-oriented focus, management skills, and her love of historic preservation to each project she works on.

Jenny Wilder is a Historic Architecture Project Manager working for Oregon State Parks. She holds a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Oregon. In her free time, she literally watches paint dry – traveling between three states to visit 400+ linseed oil paint samples – thanks to a research project initiated by the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Training Center. When she’s not buried in data or field notes, she moonlights as the President of the PNW chapter for The Society of Architectural Historians.

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Historic Preservation Terminology

Character-defining features (CDFs) are the collection of physical features or components that communicate the significance of a historic property within its historic context and period of significance.

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. Integrity is evaluated using the seven aspects of integrity identified by the National Register of Historic Places: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Historic resources are categorized into buildings, structures, objects, sites and districts.

There are four primary categories of significance called the National Register Criteria. Historic Resources must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- A. Associated with events that or broad patterns of history
- B. Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past
- C. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction
- D. Yield, or may likely yield, information important in prehistory or history.

There are a set of seven Criteria Considerations for properties that are not typically eligible for listing, such as cemeteries, birthplaces, graves, religious institutions/religiously affiliated sites/buildings, relocated or reconstructed resources, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years. See National Register Bulletin 15.

The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties guides preservation of historic properties. There are four treatment approaches, including Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction.

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project. However, new exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment. The Standards for Preservation require retention of the greatest amount of historic fabric along with the building’s historic form.

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. The Rehabilitation Standards acknowledge the need to alter or add to a historic building to meet continuing or new uses while retaining the building’s historic character.

Restoration is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project. The Restoration Standards allow for the depiction of a building at a particular time in its history by preserving materials, features, finishes, and spaces from its period of significance and removing those from other periods.

Reconstruction is defined as the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location. The Reconstruction Standards establish a limited framework for recreating a vanished or non-surviving building with new materials, primarily for interpretive purposes.

Elk Rock Garden Field School

Course Exercises

Assignment due one week after your session if enrolled for credit.

Throughout your time at Elk Rock Garden, you will be immersed in the many facets of historic preservation within the unique context of a ten-acre historic estate. Preservation here is inherently interdisciplinary, involving craft, compliance, condition assessment, evaluation, history, and design. These exercises are designed to challenge you to apply technical skills used in the preservation field while engaging with both the built and landscaped elements that define Elk Rock Garden's character.

1. Write a physical description of a selected historic feature at Elk Rock Garden

Choose a building, structure, or site, such as the residence, garden's cottage, stone stair, a window assembly, the Cascades water feature, or a garden element like a planting bed. Your description should identify the materials, construction methods, and components. Follow a logical order—begin with the general form, function, and location, then move into detailed construction or horticultural characteristics.

2. Draw an elevation or plan of a selected feature, including measurements

Prioritize overall dimensions such as length, width, height, or depth. Measurements might include window sash dimensions, masonry course heights, tread and riser sizes, or planting bed extents. Drawings do not need to be to scale but should clearly convey proportion and form. Drawing title blocks should include: the property (Elk Rock Garden); project (PNWFS); selected feature; view (e.g. plan, north elevation, etc.); author; date; and page (eg.Sheet 1 of 4).

3. Evaluate a selected feature or space for inclusion in a future National Register historic district nomination for Elk Rock Garden and write an argument for its inclusion or exclusion as a contributing resource.

Consider the feature's relationship to Elk Rock Garden's period of significance (1897-1957) and the National Register criteria (A-D) and discuss aspects of integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association). Reference National Register Bulletin 15 as a guide.

4. Document visible changes over time

Identify evidence that shows how a selected feature has evolved. Consider clues from historic photographs, drawings, planting plans, changes in materials or finishes, or alterations. Examples might include the conversion of the estate's former tennis court to a Victory Garden and later to a parking lot, or replacement of the cedar shake roof with asphalt shingles.

5. Describe the work completed during the Field School

Create a record of one project or task you participated in. Describe what was reconstructed, repaired, restored, or maintained, and explain how it was done. For example, repairing oak lattice radiator screens, re-leading glass windows, repointing the fish pond masonry, or removing sediment from The Cascades. Include methods, materials, and tools used.

6. Reflect on a conversation or point of debate during the week

Field School conversations often reveal differences in preservation philosophy. Best preservation practice is to repair in kind matching texture, color, and materials. Identify the topic, outline the differing viewpoints, and share your position based on the perspectives and evidence discussed during the week. For example, should alternative materials be considered at radiator vents if historic materials have failed, or should in kind materials always be used and a maintenance plan developed for their upkeep? Should blighted boxwood bushes be replaced with a more resistant species or should new boxwood bushes be established as they become blighted?

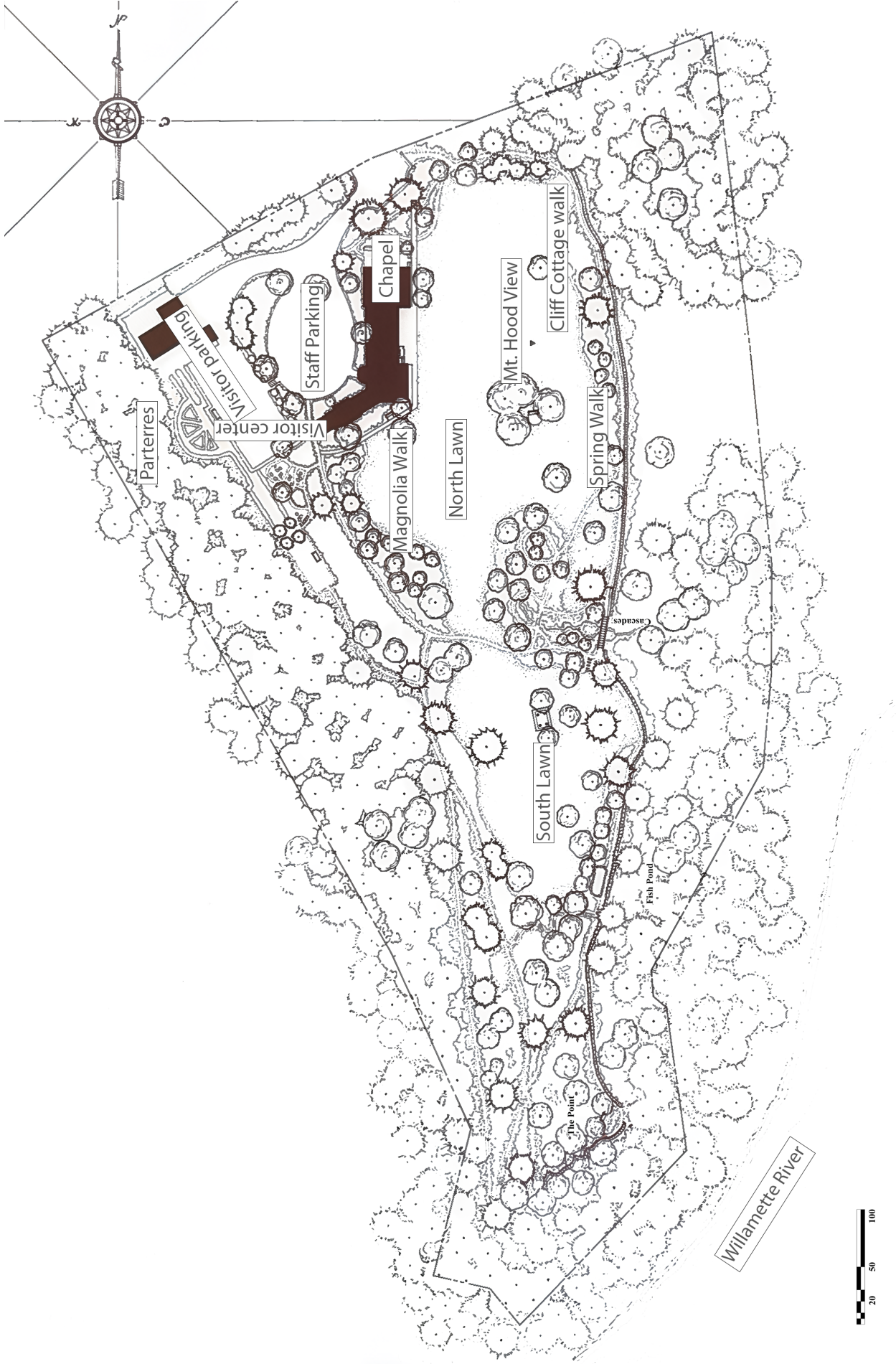
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Resources

[National Register of Historic Places Bulletins](#)

[Technical Preservation Services Publications](#)

Stained and Leaded Glass:

The Stained Glass Association of America – Standards and Guidelines for Preservation: <https://stainedglass.org/learning-resources/standards-and-guidelines-preservation>

Wood Science:

Wood handbook—Wood as an engineering material. General Technical Report FPL-GTR-190. Forest Products Laboratory. Madison, WI: 2010. Open source: http://www.fpl.fs.fed.us/documnts/fplgtr/fpl_gtr190.pdf

Hoadley, R.B. Understanding Wood: a craftsman's guide to wood technology. Newtown, CT: Taunton Press, 1980.

USDA FPL. 1986. Wood Decay in Houses How to Prevent and Control It. pp. 1–25. <https://naldc.nal.usda.gov/download/12758/PDF>

Anthony, R W. 2007. Practice points 03: Basics of Wood Inspection: Considerations for Historic Preservation. APT Bulletin, 38(2-3). <http://www.apti.org/clientuploads/publications/PracticePoints/03-Anthony.pdf>

Anthony, R.W. Practice Points 10: Nondestructive Evaluation: Wood. APT Bulletin, 41(4). <http://www.apti.org/clientuploads/publications/PracticePoints/PracticePoints10-Anthony.pdf>

Hoadley R. B. Identifying Wood: Accurate results with simple tools. The Taunton Press, Newtown, CT. 1990.

Harling:

Advisory Standards of Conservation and Repair for the Historic Building Environment in Scotland: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/media/9990/advisory-standards-conservation-repair-2023.pdf>

Historic Environment of Scotland – Haa of Sand – Refurbishment Case Study 25: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationid=158a5511-b667-4e03-8b84-a716009fb9cb>

Historic Environment of Scotland – Technical Paper 31 - Historic External Lime Finishes in Scotland: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationid=9fc7b2b3-e3a1-4b4c-8b5b-aa8b00908af2>

Cultural Landscapes:

The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes: <https://www.nps.gov/crps/tps/landscape-guidelines/index.html>

Photography:

Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Architectural and Engineering Documentation: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritagedocumentation/soi-standards-guidelines.htm>

Relevant Preservation Briefs

The following briefs and descriptions were selected and duplicated verbatim from: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1739/preservation-briefs.htm>

1. [Assessing Cleaning and Water-Repellent Treatments for Historic Masonry Buildings](#). Robert C. Mack, FAIA, and Anne E. Grimmer. Surveys a variety of cleaning methods and materials and provides guidance on selecting the most appropriate method and the gentlest means possible. Discusses water-repellent and waterproof coatings, the purpose of each, the suitability of their application to historic masonry buildings, and possible consequences of their inappropriate use. 2000. GPO stock number 024-005-01207-9
2. [Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry Buildings](#). Robert C. Mack, FAIA, and John P. Speweik. Provides general guidance on appropriate materials and methods for repointing historic masonry buildings. 1998.
3. [Improving Energy Efficiency in Historic Buildings](#). Jo Ellen Hensley and Antonio Aguilar. Discusses the inherent energy efficient features of historic buildings. Recommends actions to increase energy efficiency. Describes alternate energy sources that have been used for historic buildings. 2011. GPO stock number 024-005-01294-0
4. [Roofing for Historic Buildings](#). Sara M. Sweetser. Provides a brief history of the most commonly used roofing materials in America. Presents a sound preservation approach to roof repair, roof replacement, and the use of alternative roofing materials. 1978.
6. [Dangers of Abrasive Cleaning to Historic Buildings](#). Anne E. Grimmer. Cautions against the use of sandblasting to clean various buildings and suggests measures to mitigate the effects of improper cleaning. Explains the limited circumstances under which abrasive cleaning may be appropriate. 1979.
9. [The Repair of Historic Wooden Windows](#). John H. Myers. Provides information on evaluating the condition of historic wood windows and on practical methods for repair. 1981.
10. [Exterior Paint Problems on Historic Woodwork](#). Kay D. Weeks and David W. Look, AIA. Identifies and describes common types of paint surface conditions and failures. Provides guidance on preparing historic woodwork for repainting, including limited and total paint removal. 1982.
14. [Exterior Additions to Historic Buildings: Preservation Concerns](#). Anne E. Grimmer and Kay D. Weeks. Uses a series of examples to suggest ways that attached additions can successfully serve contemporary uses as part of a rehabilitation project while preserving significant historic materials and features and the building's historic character. 2010. GPO stock number 024-005-01280-0
17. [Architectural Character—Identifying the Visual Aspects of Historic Buildings as an Aid to Preserving Their Character](#). Lee H. Nelson, FAIA. Essential guidance to help property owners and architects identify those features of historic buildings that give the building its visual character so that their preservation can be maximized in rehabilitation. 1988.

18. [Rehabilitating Interiors in Historic Buildings](#)—Identifying Character-Defining Elements. H. Ward Jandl. Assists building owners in identifying significant interior spaces, features, and finishes so they may be preserved in rehabilitation work. Applies to all building types and styles, from 18th century churches to 20th century office buildings. 1988.

19. [The Repair and Replacement of Historic Wooden Shingle Roofs](#). Sharon C. Park, AIA. Discusses historic wooden roofing, expectations for longevity, and repair and replacement options. Identifies roofing material that duplicates the appearance of a historic roof, offers guidance on proper installation, and provides information on coatings and maintenance procedures to help preserve the roof. 1989.

21. [Repairing Historic Flat Plaster—Walls and Ceilings](#). Marylee MacDonald. Guides building owners on repairing historic plaster using traditional materials (wet plaster) and techniques. Suggests replacement options if the historic plaster is severely deteriorated. Useful chart on various plaster bases and compatible basecoats and finish coats. 1989.

22. [The Preservation and Repair of Historic Stucco](#). Anne E. Grimmer. Describes the evolution of stucco as a building material, beginning with a brief history of how stucco is applied, and how its composition, texture, and surface patterns have changed. Includes guidelines on how to plan for and carry out repair of historic stucco, with sample mixes for 18th, 19th, and 20th century stucco types. 1990.

24. [Heating, Ventilating, and Cooling Historic Buildings: Problems and Recommended Approaches](#). Sharon C. Park, AIA. Underscores the importance of careful planning in order to balance preservation objectives with the interior climate needs of the building. 1991.

28. [Painting Historic Interiors](#). Sara B. Chase. Discusses wall paint and decorative surface treatments from the late 17th century to the 1950s. Describes the usefulness of a complete paint investigation for preservation and restoration projects. Provides guidance on the common causes of interior paint failure and preparing surfaces for repainting. Makes recommendations about paint with health and safety factors in mind. 1992.

32. [Making Historic Properties Accessible](#). Thomas C. Jester and Sharon C. Park, AIA. Introduces the complex issue of providing accessibility at historic properties, and underscores the need to balance accessibility and historic preservation. Provides guidance and many examples of successful projects. 1993.

33. [The Preservation and Repair of Stained and Leaded Glass](#). Neal A. Vogel and Rolf Achilles. Gives a short history of stained and leaded glass in America. Surveys basic preservation and documentation issues and addresses common causes of deterioration and presents protection, repair, and restoration options. Updated 2007. GPO stock number 024-005-01254-1

35. [Understanding Old Buildings: The Process of Architectural Investigation](#). Travis C. McDonald, Jr. Explains architectural investigation as the critical first step in planning an appropriate treatment. Addresses the investigative process of understanding how a building has changed over time and assessing levels of deterioration. 1994. GPO stock number 024-005-01143-9

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36. [Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment, and Management of Historic Landscapes](#). Charles A. Birnbaum, ASLA. Describes types of cultural landscapes. Provides a step-by-step process for preserving historic designed and vernacular landscapes to ensure a successful balance between historic preservation and change. 1994.
37. [Appropriate Methods of Reducing Lead-Paint Hazards in Historic Housing](#). Sharon C. Park, AIA, and Douglas C. Hicks. Under revision to reflect current Federal laws and regulations concerning lead-based paint.
39. [Holding the Line: Controlling Unwanted Moisture in Historic Buildings](#). Sharon C. Park, AIA. Outlines a way to diagnose moisture problems and choose remedial treatments. Provides guidance on managing moisture deterioration, repairing and maintaining historic building materials, and correcting common problem areas. Includes charts on types of diagnostic tools, recommended treatments and treatments that should always be avoided. 1996. GPO stock number 024-005-01168-4
43. [The Preparation and Use of Historic Structure Reports](#). Deborah Slaton. Defines the historic structure report and provides a historical overview of its use. Outlines an entire procedure for preparing a report, taking a team approach. 2004. GPO stock number 024-005-01191-9
44. [The Use of Awnings on Historic Buildings: Repair, Replacement and New Design](#). Chad Randl. Provides a historic overview of the practical and aesthetic use of various types of awnings. Presents guidance for their maintenance, preservation, and repair. Discusses the circumstances under which awning replacement is appropriate and how to achieve a compatible design for new awnings on historic buildings. 2004. GPO stock number 024-005-01222-2
51. [Building Codes for Historic and Existing Buildings: Planning and Maximizing their Application](#). Discusses how to meet the goals of building codes while preserving or minimizing alterations to the character-defining features, spaces, materials, and finishes of historic buildings; provides guidance for selecting the optimal code compliance method and suggests best practices for achieving code-compliant solutions that also allow for the preservation of a building's historic character. Marilyn E. Kaplan, Architect, FAPT. 2024.