

Benton County

Historic Preservation Month 2023 – Summary of Events

Corvallis-Benton County Public Library Display



Rayburn Addition Tour (Guided by Doug Eaton)

Exploration of one of Corvallis' oldest neighborhoods featuring homes ranging from the historic 1856 Biddle-Porter House to a 1926 Spanish Revival stucco dwelling.

- 21 people attended.
- Property owner Frank Crotti was available during portions of the tour. He and his wife, Teddi, own multiple properties that they are restoring. They allowed a walk-through of their home at the conclusion of the tour.
- One of the tour attendees owned the oldest home in the neighborhood and invited other attendees to walk to her home at the end of the tour. She discussed the history of her house and the rehabilitation that was completed.

Spectres Season 3

May website users summary: week 1- 58; week 2 - 122; week 3 -145; week 4 - 118; week 5 (post event) – 52
Averages to 20 users per day throughout May

An Introduction to Camp Adair's Four Infantry Divisions

This event took place at the Memorial Gardens at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area. Four Adair Living History board members provided information about the four infantry divisions that trained at Camp Adair in the early 1940s, prior to deployment to the European and the Pacific Theatres.

- 40-50 people attended.

Avery-Helm Historic District Tour

The Avery-Helm neighborhood is part of the Joseph C. Avery land claim filed in 1845. It includes 9 full block and ten partial blocks laid out on a grid system. The historic houses remaining in the district present a window into the domestic aspects of the city's development from 1870 to 1949.

- 10 people attended, dropping down to 3 by the end because of the cold and rainy weather.

Owens Farmhouse tour and History Walk

Learned about the Knotts-Owens family, their influence in Benton County, uses of the farm over time, and heard about the exciting vision for this property in the future. This tour included a brief look inside the historic Owens Farm House.

- 32 people attended.
- The city had cleared brush from around the house and trimmed bushes so the house was very visible.



OSU Walking Tour (Guided by Larry Landis)

OSU is Corvallis' most recent historic district with more than 80 contributing structures and it's the only Oregon Campus listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

- 24 people attended, dropping down to 10 at the end of tour due to the extreme heat.

Jobs Addition Historic Neighborhood walking tour (Guided by Lyn Larson)

Architectural walking tour along 13th and 14th streets in Jobs Addition, one of Corvallis' oldest platted neighborhoods.

- 18 people attended.

Benton County Courthouse Tours (Guided by Jill Van Buren)

The oldest courthouse in the state that has been in continuous operation, this courthouse is a regional icon and graces the logos of both Benton County and the City of Corvallis.

- Two tours were schedule, one at 10 AM and one at 2 PM
- There were approximately 20 people at each tour.

Orleans Natural Area Hike (Guided by Dave Eckert)

Hiked along the east bank of the Willamette River to the confluence of the Willamette and Marys Rivers and to the site of the lost town of Orleans, learned some of the area's history.

- 27 people attended.

Learn from an Expert - Structural Assessment of the Historic Albany Airport Hangar

Mariapaola Riggio, PhD in Structural Engineering and Associate Professor in Wood design and Architecture at OSU, and her graduate students in the "Structural Health Assessment and Monitoring of Timber Structures" class will demonstrate a holistic approach to assessing structural health of historic wood buildings. Structural health assessment is crucial because a building can be likened to a living organism that undergoes changes during its service life due to factors such as the environment, loading history, maintenance, and use.

- 7 people attended.

Fort Hoskins Celebration Day

The band Wild Hog in the Woods was hired (using CLG grant funds) to play from 11 AM to 1 PM with the intent to entice more people out to the park. The Commander's House and Franz Dunn House were both open and one Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas (AFRANA) member was posted at each house.

- 35 people visited the houses.

Fairmount Grange Open House

This was a new addition to Hist Pres Mo event schedule.

- The Grange received approximately 11 visitors.

Independent Community Center Open House (Guided by Katherine Harris)

The Independent School was built in 1919 and is a good example of a Craftsman style schoolhouse with a Bungalow floor plan.

- 5 people attended.

Willamette Grange Open House (Guided by Jay Sexton) and **Historic Wood Window restoration demonstration** (Guided by Autumn Peterson)

- 10 people attended the tour and the grange signed up 2 new members
- 3 people attended the window restoration workshop/demonstration

Green B. Smith/John Rickard Historic Home Open House (Guided by Larry and Rebecca Landis)

This was a new addition to Hist Pres Mo event schedule.

- 20 people attended.

College Hill West Walking Tour (Guided by Dan Brown)

The College Hill West Historic District contains over 250 houses dating from 1905 through 1945, and the neighborhood was developed by the builders of OSU.

- 14 people attended.
- One of the historic homeowners, Deborah Kadas, welcomed the group into her home and back yard – the K.C. Reitsma House.

Corvallis Masonic Temple Tour

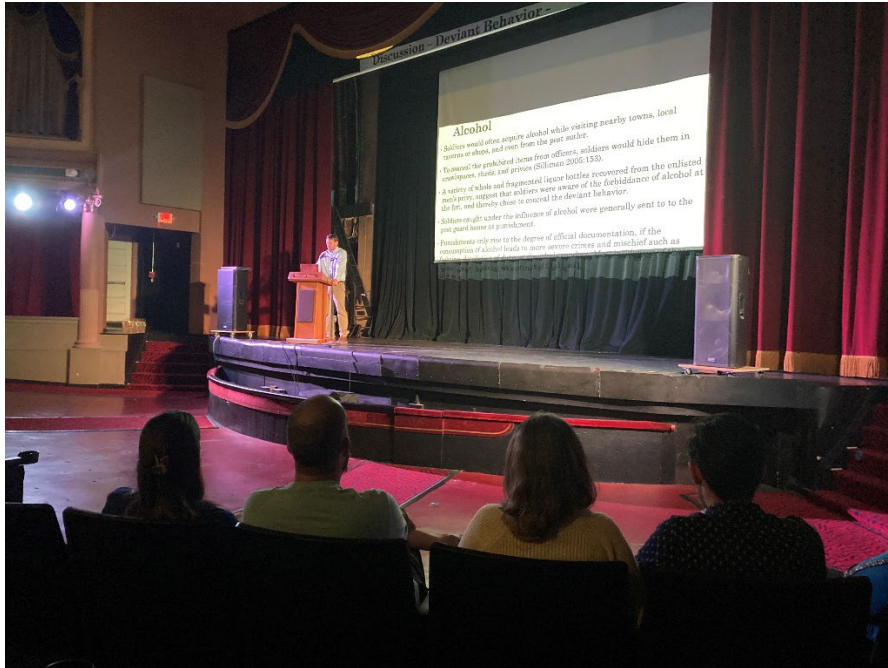
Tour of the interior of the Masonic Temple and background history and discussion of the masons. This was a new addition to Hist Pres Mo event schedule and very well received.

- 20 people attended.

Historic Preservation Celebration and Awards Ceremony

This year's ceremony took place at the Whiteside Theatre. Approximately 50 people attended.

Benton County gave appreciation gifts to the following frequent tour guides & historic resource interpreters: Carolyn Ver Linden, Dan Brown, Dave Eckert, Doug Eaton, Jill Van Buren, Katherine Harris, Larry Landis, Lyn Larson, Phil Hayes, and Mary Gallagher. The City of Corvallis gave out three awards and PreservationWORKS gave out 5 awards. Shane James with the State Historic Preservation Office gave the keynote presentation on Fort Hoskins.



KOAC Radio Station Tours

KOAC is one of the oldest radio stations of its kind. The radio aired its first broadcast in 1923 - so this is a 100 year celebration of the signal, but not of the building which was constructed in 1942.

- Three tours took place, at 11 AM, 1 PM, and 3 PM
- Each tour was limited to 12 people and each tour reached capacity.

Historic Downtown Corvallis Walking Tour (Guided by Mary Gallagher)

The tour began with a 45 PowerPoint presentation in the Corvallis Museum and then a walking tour down 2nd Street.

- 38 people attended.