

At the foot of Weston Mountain

The Blue Mountain Dispatch

Courtesy of the Weston Area Development Association

July 2023

Vol 2 No 7

**Weston Weekly Leader
Saturday, June 26, 1880
THE FOURTH**

One week from tomorrow will be the anniversary of the greatest day, the mighty pivotal period, of a great nation's freedom. Many will participate in the rejoicings of the day, and consciously or unconsciously, feel the delight and enjoyment of freedom. Now that slavery, the great blot of inconsistency, has been crushed by the might of an aroused nation from existence, we stand before the world radiant in the living bloom of true liberty. It is becoming that every patriotic citizen cast a retrospective glance at the life of the nation from its inception to its present mighty stature. Composed first of distinct States, animated by the same hopes and wishes, they naturally sought an organization as much as convenient, at variance with the existing tyrannical governments. Finding, by experience, coupled with wise statesmanship, that a closer and firmer amalgamation would be beneficial, the original organization was modified accordingly. For nearly a hundred years this plan excited the unabated admiration of a wondering world; its precepts were wafted like beneficent angels into the stronghold of imperialism, softening its severities; its precepts permeated the peasant and the serf, awakening their minds to a just conception of the rights of man, created in the Divine image; its doctrines encouraged, civilization, fanned into brightness the flame of universal liberty, and encouraged the spread of true religion; and its gifts and beauties beckoned with irresistible power, the suffering thousands of every land to partake of its many blessings, and realize the hallowed sweetness of the maxim, "All men were created free and equal."

With this glorious record to eulogize the plan, the millions of throats to chant the joyous songs of freedom in the capacity of "sovereign people," the world land smiling in the amplitude of its self-supporting powers, the very breath of heaven echoing the grand harmony of glee in approving strains, what more could an intelligent and happy people desire at human hands! Let us, then, as men and citizens praise the source of such manifold benefits and watch that the successful mediocre and anarchy on the one hand and centralization of the other, be crushed at their first approach. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."



Regret goes only one way. The preservation of historic buildings is a one-way street. There is no chance to renovate or to save a historic site once it's gone. And we can never be certain what will be valued in the future. This reality brings to light the importance of locating and saving buildings of historic significance—because once a piece of history is destroyed, it is lost forever.

*From "Six Practical Reasons to Save Old Buildings" by Julia Rocchi
<https://tinyurl.com/42ezucrt>*

Weston Area Development Association

WADA was organized as a nonprofit to assist in obtaining grants, appropriations, donations, and other types of funding to work on historic preservation, economic development, and more in the Weston area – not just downtown.

Weston is in need of funding to restore the downtown buildings as well as develop economic opportunities for the community. WADA will work cooperatively with local, state, and federal government resources.

For more information:

541-204-0874

WADA97886@gmail.com

WADA
c/o PO Box 256
Weston, OR 97886
WADA97886@gmail.com
www.WestonOregon.com

Facebook:
@WestonOregon2022

501 c 3 nonprofit
Tax ID: 88-0783039

WADA is a Connected Communities member of the Oregon Main Street Network.

Oregon Cultural Trust approved nonprofit.


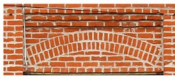







We are registered with <https://www.guidestar.org/>

Scavenger Hunt Answers

Historic Downtown Architectural Scavenger Hunt

Find and write the street address of the building in each photo. All buildings are within Weston's Historic Commercial District.



		
114 E Main Street	201 E Main Street	210 E Main Street
		
107 E Main Street	101 E Main Street	110 E Main Street
		
108 E Main Street	100 E Main Street	110 1/2 E Main Str

Celebrating Historic Preservation Month was a huge success! Thank you to the businesses who helped promote historic preservation. We appreciate your support. The answers to the scavenger hunt are shown above.

Congratulations to Larry and Diane Martin for submitting a correct playing card. They chose Christmas ornaments for their prizes.

We will celebrate again next May 2024.



SHPO UPDATE: Oregon's Special Assessment not re-authorized in 2023 Legislative Session

The Oregon Legislature did not reauthorize Oregon's Special Assessment program during the 2203 legislative session. Oregon's Special Assessment of Historic Properties program offers a specially assessed value, calculated by the county assessor, to formally listed National Register properties for a 10-year benefit term. Senate Bill 149 would have extended the program for an additional 6 years. The last application cycle for the Special Assessment program will begin November 1, 2023 and continue through March 31, 2024. To participate historic properties must be certified for enrollment by July 1, 2024. All properties currently enrolled in the Special Assessment will continue until their expiration dates. The Legislature did approve House Bill 2079 early in the legislative session, which directs the Legislative Review Office to study the potential of implementing a tax credit and direct grant program to encourage the preservation of historic properties in Oregon. Stay tuned for more information in late 2024 when their report is released.

*Support
Historic
Preservation
in Weston!*

**Donations may be mailed to:
Weston Area
Development Association
PO Box 256
Weston, OR 97886
or online at:
<https://tinyurl.com/yckn3uv7>**

Spotlight On Weston's Historic Buildings

Building No. 7

Weston Opera House (Historic Name)
206 East Main Street, Weston, Oregon

(SE corner of East Main Street & North Broad Street)

Historic name: Weston Opera House

Common name: Weston Memorial Hall

Date of construction: 1895-1900; moved to present site from opposite side of Main Street 1918-1920

Style: Georgian Colonial Revival Significance: Primary

Description: Single story wood frame building, rectangular in plan with longitudinal orientation, gable roof, small rear shed addition, shiplap siding, eaveless rear gable, boxed cornices and eaves troughs side elevations, plain corner boards and water skirt. Stylistic character conveyed by tripartite banks of dou-



In the photo above, taken shortly after the move from its former location, the Normal School still stands on the hill to the left, and it has not been raised to its current level requiring the large steps in the front.

ble hung windows with many small panes in facade and side

elevations, and by stuccoed false front which is organized with strict bilateral symmetry and detailed with paired and single pilasters with Corinthian capitals, full wood entablature and balustrade, stepped parapet covering gable peak. Central, double leaf doorway sheltered by cantilevered canopy in form of classical entablature. This building originally stood on Tax Lot 3500 on the north side of the Saling and Reese Store. Following Armistice Day in 1918, it was moved to the present site on the south side of Main Street and rededicated as a memorial to townsfolk who had served overseas during the First World War.

At the time of the relocation, the building was sited on a concrete foundation and basement.

Approximate frontage on Main Street is nearly 40 feet. The building is set back from the street about 25 feet, and the area planted with lawn. The main entrance is approached by concrete steps. (When the building was moved in 1919, it was not placed over a basement. That was not added until approximately 30 years later).

Walking tour link:

<https://www.theclio.com/entry/163817>

WESTON, OREGON, FRIDAY, SEPT. 10, 1920

SATURDAY, OCT. 2

Samuel Goldwyn & Rex Beach
present
REX BEACH'S
famous story
The SILVER HORDE
Directed by Frank Lloyd

Memorial Hall :: Prices 50c-25c
CONTINUOUS SHOW, Beginning 8 P. M.

Historic Preservation DIY: Plaster Wall Repair

Taking on old house projects can be a rewarding experience, as it allows you to put your own personal touch on your historic home. While in many cases, the best option is to hire a skilled tradesperson who is knowledgeable about older buildings, such as those found in our Online Directory of Products and Services, <https://www.nhpreservation.org/directory-of-products-services> there are some tasks you can take on yourself. With proper guidance, putting your own time and effort into improvements and repairs on your historic property can be fulfilling and, in a way, make you part of the building's history. However, it's important to approach these projects with caution and make sure you have the necessary skills and tools to complete them safely and effectively. It's also important to have a clear plan in place to avoid any unexpected surprises or delays.

Repairing plaster can seem like a daunting task but, to make it a bit easier, we've broken it down to four simple steps with the help of master plasterer, Emmett O'Carroll, of O'Carroll Traditional Plaster and Mouldings. This repair method uses modern gypsum plaster. Using traditional lime plaster for repairs is a bit more complicated and unless you are a very skilled DIYer, a job best left for the experienced plasterer.

Check out our 4-step guide to doing your own plaster repairs:

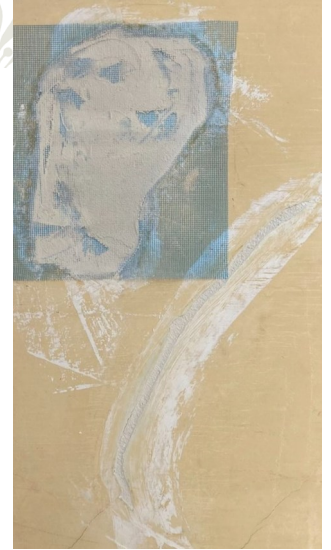
Step 1: Expose, Clean, and Glue

Fully exposing and cleaning cracks and holes in plaster is crucial before applying any materials. For cracks, use a utility knife to slightly broaden the crack to a "V" shape and expose the lath beneath. For large areas of loose plaster, remove all plaster back to the point where it is structurally sound. All surfaces should be cleaned of dirt, dust and loose plaster. Then using a paint brush, apply a bonding agent to all surfaces to be plaster coated, including the lath and the sides of neighboring plaster. For this, O'Carroll uses *Bond All Exterior*.



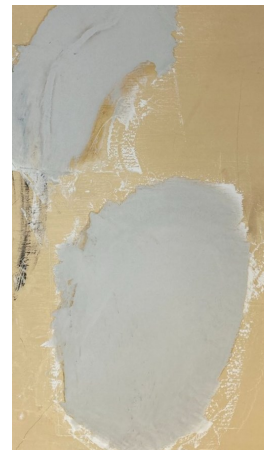
Step 2: 1st Fill and Mesh

Next, the basecoat of plaster should be applied. O'Carroll uses *Structo-Lite*, a lightweight gypsum plaster that he notes to be very strong. The basecoat should cover the entire area of the crack or hole. Next, a layer of mesh should be embedded into the wet basecoat using a putty knife. Mesh is not needed when repairing thin cracks. By this step, the new plaster should still be slightly recessed compared to surrounding surfaces. Wait at least a day to allow plaster to dry before applying a second coat.



Step 3: Remove Excess Mesh and Add Topcoat

Use a utility knife to cut away excess mesh to just inside the perimeter of the repair area. A topcoat of plaster (*Structo-Lite*) should be applied that conceals the last of the mesh and fills the new plaster flush against the wall. Be careful not to fill the topcoat beyond flat with surrounding surfaces. Again, wait at least a day to allow plaster to dry before applying additional coats. *Note: after this step is completed, the crack or hole is considered fixed, and additional treatment is cosmetic.*



Continued on page 5

Step 4: Finish Coat and Compress

After the plaster has been given adequate time to dry (≥ 24 hrs.), this would be the time to apply a finish coat. O’Carroll uses *Diamond Veneer Finish* for his finish coat, but he mentioned sheetrock mud can also be used. The general rule for the finish coat is to apply multiple thin layers, rather than one or two thick layers. The more finish coats applied to the plaster, the less prone it will be to shrinking and cracking over time. As each layer of the finish coat is drying, use the trowel to compress the layers to create a smooth polished surface. If sheetrock mud is used, sanding is required to create the smooth surface.



And you’re done!

Check out all four steps, side-by-side below



We hope that you’ve found this plaster repair guide helpful. Many thanks go out to Emmett O’Carroll for his help in putting these steps together. All photos were taken at a plaster repair workshop on May 31, 2023 at Centennial Hall in North Hampton conducted by Emmett in collaboration with the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance and the Friends of Centennial Hall (<https://centennialhall.org>)

Would you like to get in touch with Emmett? You can reach him at:
O’Carroll Traditional Plaster & Mouldings
(603) 380-8887
emmettoc@hotmail.com
Instagram: @ocarroll_traditional_plaster
<https://www.nhpreservation.org/>



AWSD SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM RETURNS

Athena-Weston School District is proud to announce the return of their Summer Food Service Program! Children 1 to 18 eat at NO COST! USDA waivers have expired, therefore we ask children to eat on site. Monday through Thursday, 12 pm to 12:30 pm. Runs June 12th through August 17th (closed July 4th). Two locations to better feed you: Athena Elementary School and Weston City Park. We hope you will take the time to swing on in and enjoy lunch with us!



\$25 Vendor Free. Youth Free
More information call 541-310-9557

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of historic resources significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture. Oregon is rich in historic places, with roughly 2,000 individual resources and 124 districts listed.²



One of the first decisions to make when working to restore and reuse a historic building is whether to nominate it for the National Register. There are many misconceptions about the restrictions and benefits that go along with being listed which we briefly address here.

Qualifications for listing

- A building, structure, district, site, or object, generally at least 50 years old
- Historically significant (important events, significant people, architecture, engineering, or archeology) at the local, state, or national level.
- Retains historic integrity in a majority of seven aspects (Location, Design, Setting, Materials, Workmanship, Feeling, and Association)

Benefits of the National Register in Oregon

- Permanently documented in the national record for posterity
- Opportunity to seek federal Historic Tax Credits of 20% of rehabilitation costs (for privately held commercial buildings and multi-family housing)
- Eligibility to apply for grant funding (usually for non-profits only)
- Special Assessment (for residential and commercial properties)
- Flexibility in code compliance or use (varies by local jurisdiction)

The National Register of Historic Places does NOT:

- Give the federal government control over your property
- Protect your property against demolition
- Regulate its sale or alteration

² Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, *Oregon Heritage Bulletin 4*, http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/docs/Heritage_Bulletins/HB04_Nat_Reg.pdf.



Mercantile and Milling Company Building, Enterprise

Any restrictions placed on historic properties are the result of LOCAL ordinances, many of which use National Register listing as a criteria for imposing review of alterations or restrictions on demolition. In most communities in Oregon outside of Portland there are no restrictions applied to National Register properties. Contact your local Planning Bureau for more information. If a property owner is utilizing Historic Tax Credits, Special Assessment, or other publically-funding assistance, rehabilitation must meet the Secretary of Interior Standards for Rehabilitation.

How to place your property in the National Register

- Gather historic information on the property (See How to Organize and Build Community Support).
- Contact the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and complete a Historic Resource Record (HRR) form to confirm eligibility.
- Complete the National Register Registration form (work with SHPO or a preservation professional)
- Present the nomination to the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation

The process of approving a National Register nomination can take up to a year, though some benefits are available to a property while the application is in process. In Oregon, only the owner of a private property may nominate it for the National Register. Public properties may be nominated by any citizen.

“Preservation is simply having the good sense to hold on to things that are well designed, that link us with our past in a meaningful way, and that have plenty of good use left in them.” — Richard Moe, former president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation

“Why spend all this effort recycling cans and bottles, and throw away entire buildings?”
— Donovan Rypkema, president, Place Economics

Historic Weston, Oregon

A Town Rich in History



www.HistoricWestonOregon.com

Blue Mountain (Kees) Cemetery

www.BlueMountainCemetery.com

Information on Burials including photos of headstones, some obituaries, and other related historical information can be found on this website. There is also a map on the website. The original website was a labor of love by Bob Gilliland. It was a miracle that it could be recovered from an archive website with only a few items not recoverable as the domain expired.



Isham Saling House

Weston, Oregon

Weston's Historic Brick Home

<https://IshamSalingHouse.com>

Walking Tour is Online at:
www.WestonOregon.com

Download the
phone app at
www.TheClio.com
or on our website.

Enjoy your walking tour!

**DISCOVER HISTORY
ALL AROUND YOU!**

Explore nearby
historic places
with Clio

non-profit and free for everyone
New entries and tours
added daily by museums,
libraries, and universities



WWW.THECLIO.COM

Available on the App Store and Google Play.



Be sure to "Like"
Our Facebook page
[@WestonOregon2022](https://www.facebook.com/WestonOregon2022)

Keep up to date on what's happening, important notices, etc. Be sure to invite your friends and family to "Like" our page, too.



HistoricFunding.com

Historic Preservation | Cultural Resources | The Arts

The most comprehensive
database of funding sources
available for historic
preservation and restoration,
cultural resource management,
and the arts.

**Grants - Loans - Tax Incentives
Rebates - CLG Funds - Easements
Scholarships - Fellowships/Internships
Apprenticeships - Residencies - More!**

Funding Categories Include:

**Historic Preservation - Museums
Archaeology - Downtown Revitalization
Arts - Humanities - Libraries - More!**

HistoricFunding.com

**Weston Area Development
Association (WADA) was organized
as a nonprofit to encourage restoration
and revitalization in downtown Weston
and the general area that results in
economic development and a positive
sense of community.**

**We have a vision to preserve and
enhance the historic charm and
uniqueness of the history of Weston.**

www.WestonOregon.com

WADA is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law. We recommend that you consult your CPA or Tax Attorney regarding donations. Tax ID: 88-0783069