

At the foot of Weston Mountain

The Blue Mountain Dispatch

NEWSLETTER OF THE WESTON AREA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



OUR COMMUNITY

| OUR HERITAGE

| OUR FUTURE



The Pros and Cons of Preserving Our Past: Historic Preservation Explained

July 28, 2025

By: Old Home Rescue

Oklahoma City, OK

- Pros of historic restoration include an improved sense of community and a better local economy.
- Cons of historic preservation include possible renovation restrictions and upfront costs.

Do you know of a historic building that could use some preservation? A lot of historic buildings have used some sort of restoration or preservation to keep them looking beautiful. Preservation connects people to their shared history and is able to enhance a community's sense of identity. Historic buildings also tend to have a level of craftsmanship that simply isn't seen in modern architecture. With that being said, sometimes the level of durability isn't quite what we would want today for a building to last several hundred years. This is where historic preservation comes into play.

What's Historic Preservation?

Historic preservation, to put it simply, is the practice of protecting and maintaining buildings or objects of historical, cultural, or architectural significance to ensure their longevity and integrity for future generations.. Often included in the historic preservation process is the reuse of the original materials and design from the initial build of the original architecture. There are several different things that historic preservation includes, but some of the more common things would include restoring windows & doors to their original condition or rehab-

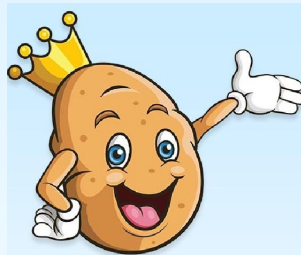
bing exterior bricks and wood.

Pros of Historic Preservation

There are many important pros of historic preservation to go over. Most notably, historic preservation is able to maintain and preserve the original architecture and unique look of the building. By preserving historic buildings, we see communities thrive and tourists flock to these areas, which in turn, helps the local economy. Below we will dig into

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104th Annual Umatilla County Potato Show



WADA is starting to plan for the upcoming 104th Annual Umatilla County

Potato Show which is slated for Saturday, October 24, 2026. The group began sponsoring the annual event last year to make sure that the community event continues.

WADA is still researching the history of the agriculture-themed event in old newspapers. A recent discovery is that the show was held in the school gym in 1928. More information will be shared in the coming months.

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July 2026

Vol 5 No 7



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 needs 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.

Board of Directors

- President/Treasurer
Trish Neal
- Vice-President
Sheldon Delph
- Secretary
Chuck Price
- At Large Board Members
Vicky Mast
Vacant
Vacant
- **Advisory Board**
Bruce Ross
Vacant
Vacant

WADA

PO Box 256

Weston, OR 97886

www.WestonOregon.com

541-626-7229

WADA97886@gmail.com

501 (c) 3 nonprofit

Tax ID: 88-0783039

Facebook:

@WestonOregon2022

*WADA is a Connected
Communities member of
Oregon Main Street*

*Oregon Cultural Trust
approved nonprofit.*

*National Trust Preservation
Forum Member*

Nonprofit of Oregon

*We are a Gold Star at
<https://www.guidestar.org>*

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some more pros of historic preservation.

Maintain Distinctive Property Character and Proof of Past

One of the most important pros of historic preservation is the proof of the past. By preserving the original architecture it will help to maintain the distinct look of historical structure. This is an amazing pro of historic preservation because it can help safeguard your communities identity by keeping visual evidence of the past. The historic buildings are something that offers a tangible link to the past that can give us stories of that time.

Local Residents and Community Relationships

Another pro of historic preservation is the benefits to the local residents and the community. By investing in your community with the preservation of historic buildings, you will see many benefits through strengthened communities and neighborhood engagement. This pro of historic preservation helps to maintain communities by tying historical buildings to local heritage. This fosters a connection, both physical and emotional, across generations.

Available Tax Breaks

A great pro of historic preservation is the available tax breaks. For a lot of towns & cities, the local government may offer federal or state tax incentives when you plan to restore a historic building. Grants and tax programs can offset the higher prices that preserving may have upfront. Depending on the city you are located in, these governments may provide additional tax abatements or credits for historic building maintenance.

Increased Tourism

Increased tourism is another great pro of historic preservation. Preserving buildings will attract tourists to the area, especially in designated [historical districts](#). This is a pro of historic

preservation because increased tourism will help to boost the local economy. This is due to tourism spending through various avenues. Cities with stronger preservation efforts from historic preservation will often be known for their historic appeal.

A Starting Structure Point

A key advantage of historic building preservation is the ability to use the starting structure as a foundation for authentic restoration. This ensures that the building's historical and architectural integrity remains intact. The starting structure, encompassing the existing materials, design, and character of the building, provides a tangible blueprint that guides preservationists in recreating or maintaining its original appearance and craftsmanship. This fidelity to the original structure preserves the unique story and cultural significance of the building while fostering a deep connection to the heritage of the community. By working from the starting structure, preservation efforts can avoid generic modernization and instead, celebrate the distinct aesthetic and historical value that makes the building a cherished landmark. This enhances both community pride and educational opportunities for future generations.

Cons of Historic Preservation

The cons of historic preservation are very limited. One of the main cons pertains to construction restrictions. When you preserve historic buildings, you will face upfront price tags but in the long run, these costs will be worth it. Available tax credits will also help.

Possible Historic Property Renovation Restrictions

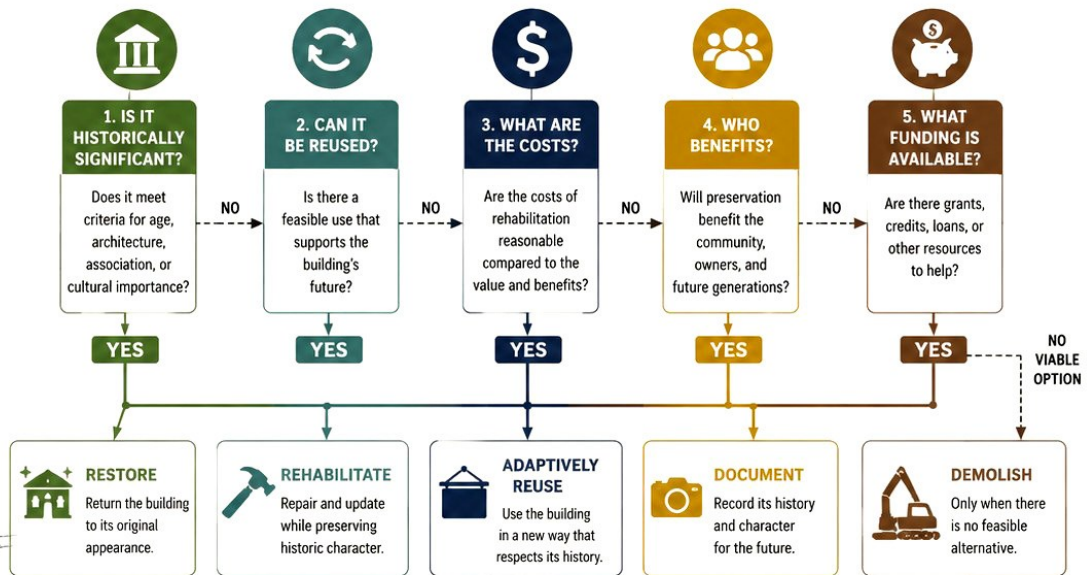
One of the main cons of historic preservation is the fact that there may be restrictions when it comes to demolition or renovation. Properties that are listed on a historic registry

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

SHOULD THIS HISTORIC BUILDING BE PRESERVED?

A GUIDE TO MAKING THOUGHTFUL, BALANCED DECISIONS



Every building and community is different. Consider all factors, engage the community, and choose the path that best preserves our heritage for future generations.

WHAT PRESERVATION CAN ACCOMPLISH

Preserving our historic places strengthens communities and keeps Oregon's story alive.

THEN Before Restoration



Many historic buildings face years of neglect and deterioration.

NOW After Rehabilitation



Restoration protects history and creates lasting value for today and tomorrow.

Historic preservation is not about freezing communities in time. It is about managing change while retaining the places that tell our shared story. (Graphic generated by ChatGpt)

can face some limits on alterations. Approvals from preservation boards or city councils may be required. This is a con of historic preservation because you may have to encounter a few extra bureaucratic steps on your preservation journey.

Potentially Higher Insurance Costs

Another con of historic preservation is the potentially higher insurance costs. Insuring older buildings may cost a bit more because of the specialized materials and/or the increased risk of working on a historic building. These historic buildings are truly irreplaceable. This has become a con of historic preservation because of the possible risks with the potential lack of modern safety features. Restoration ma-

terials can also increase the cost of preservation, which adds to the overall cost.

Potential For Complicated Repairs

The last con of historic preservation is the potential for complicated repairs. Arguably the biggest con of historic reservation is the fact that some older buildings may have outdated electrical, plumbing, or insulation systems. Windows and doors may not meet modern efficiency standards, making it even harder. This will increase the difficulty level of the restoration and can even increase the costs

Is Historic Preservation Worth It? If it were up to us, we would say historic restoration is definitely
Continued on page 4

Continued from page 1—Potato Show

This year there will be cash prizes along with ribbons for the entries to the Potato Show. WADA is working on the criteria for the cash prizes and will share the details by September.



The Isham Saling House will be offering an updated potato recipe cookbook for sale during the show. The cookbook was spearheaded by the late Chuck McCullough, former chair of the Isham Saling House committee several years ago. The cookbook will be updated with more recipes as well as history of the house, Potato Show history, and photographs. New recipes are being accepted. See page 10 for how to submit recipes.

The Weston Food Pantry will host the all-potato luncheon on Saturday. Volunteers and donations are needed. More details will be forthcoming.

Volunteers are needed by WADA to assist with setting up the Memorial Hall, accepting entries to the Potato Show, judges for the entries, and more. See page 7 for details.

The petting zoo was popular with the kids last year. WADA hopes to offer that again this year with possible other events for the younger crowd.

Friends of Weston Library (FOWL) will have their annual book sale/library fundraiser in the club room located in the basement of the hall. Librarian Heather Culley will lead her popular cemetery tour as well.

Table rentals will be available starting the end of August for crafts people, vendors, and organizations.

Contact WADA if you are interested volunteering at 541-626-7229 or email WADA97886@gmail.com

Continued from page 3

worth it! Some of the best pros of historic restoration is that it enhances property value, greatly supports the local economy, and is able to keep cultural identity alive. Historic preservation can get expensive, but with available tax credits, it is possible to lower the starting prices. Historic building preservation is a labor of love and the results are definitely worth it.

<https://tinyurl.com/3dt94y48>

City Fountain for Weston

WESTON, Or., Sept. 10 – (Special) – In special session the City Council has ordered an ornamental figure of bronze for the new city fountain, recently built of cement in the center of the main business part of town, and supplied with water from a splendid spring. The figure has a diameter of four feet and a height of seven feet six inches. At the base are four dolphins spouting spray. Above it a sea-shell design, and surmounting all is the figure of a boy holding a fish, from the mouth of what a stream of water ascends.

The Oregonian (Portland, Oregon) Thu, Sep 11, 1902

Seeking Weston Area Historic Preservation Advocates!

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.

The Weston Area Development Association (WADA) will work cooperatively with local, state, and federal government resources as well as other organizations and individuals.

Interested persons should be at least eighteen years of age, live in Weston preferably but not required. The WADA Board looks for members who are willing to commit time and energy to our Mission and Vision.

Board of Director positions are 3-year terms beginning in the corporate year of January to December. The Board meets monthly via Zoom.

If you are interested in joining us please request our board application form by email at WADA97886@gmail.com. If you prefer to call, you can reach us at 541-626-7229. Check us out at: <https://WestonOregon.com>

Commercial • Residential • Wiring & Repair • UL 508A
Fire • Security • Pump & Motor

1421 Dell Ave Walla Walla, WA

Doyle ELECTRIC Inc.

Leo Doyle
General Manager

Business: 509-529-2500 Cell: 509-520-6897

Email: leod@doyleelectric.com

WA # DOYLEEI277CL OR # CCB 19588

**For information on renting
Weston-Athena Memorial
Hall, please contact the
new Hall Manager, Scott
Carlson, @ 541-720-1888.**

WADA uses Zeffy.com for Donations

zeffy 

Millions to help.

It is a safe site and allows WADA to be good stewards of funds donated by our supporters. We chose Zeffy.com because we receive 100% of the donated funds. We are not charged a percentage of the donated funds.

While it is suggested that donors cover the fee, it is not required. That is pretty amazing considering PayPal, GoFundMe, and others charge around 3% or more of the total donation. It is a safe site.

For more information on Zeffy.com here is our link:
<https://tinyurl.com/bdfjwrr8>



106 E Main Street | Weston, Oregon
Wednesday through Saturday 11:00am-6:00pm

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211 N. Water

Weston, Oregon 97886

(542) 566-2705

WESTON Food Pantry NEEDS YOU!

The Weston Food Pantry is open to the public on the first Tuesday of the month from 5–7 p.m. and the third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m.–noon. We serve about **200** families each month.

Our food comes to us once a month from the Oregon Food Bank distributed through CAPECO in Pendleton. We use donated funds to supplement what we get from CAPECO.

We buy eggs, cheese, milk and butter each month with a cost of about **\$3000/month**.



♥ DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

The money is used to keep the shelves stocked so that our patrons can have the food that they need.



CHECKS

can be made to Weston Food Pantry and mailed to:
P.O. Box 173
Weston, OR 97886



DONATIONS

We are thankful for our donors and those who are food insecure are served by us and your donations.



QUESTIONS?

Email us at westonoregonfoodcentrity@gmail.com or call Preston Winn, Manager at 541-969-2225.

FOOD PANTRY HOURS



First Tuesday of the Month

5pm to 7pm



Third Saturday of the Month

10am to 12 noon

Suggestion for donation for the Weston Food Pantry to help your neighbor's birthdays special.



To make cake without eggs, oil, or water just add one additional ingredient. Bake according to package directions.



24/7 EMERGENCY LEGAL ACCESS

WE'RE HERE 24/7, 365 DAYS A YEAR. WE'RE JUST A TAP AWAY WHEN YOU USE THE EMERGENCY ACCESS BUTTON INSIDE OUR MOBILE APP.

Contact me today!

Trish Neal, Independent Associate
907-717-8117 TrishaNeal@hotmail.com
<https://TrishNeal.WeAreLegalShield.com>



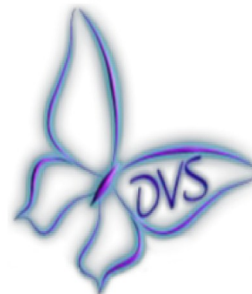
Support WADA with Business Card Ads

Business card size ads for your business, event, or just to wish someone a Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary. \$25 per month. Send your business card or we can design the ad for you. Deadline is the 25th of the month to appear in the next month's newsletter.

WADA97886@gmail.com

Domestic Violence Services, Inc.

Serving **Umatilla & Morrow**
Counties Since 1977



Safety, Help, & Hope

24 - HOUR CRISIS LINE
1 - 800 - 833 - 1161

Servicios de Violencia Doméstica, Inc.

Sirviendo los Condados de
Umatilla y Morrow desde 1977



Proteccion, Ayuda Y Esperanza

LÍNEA DE CRISIS DE 24 HORA
1 - 800 - 833 - 1161

104th ANNUAL

UMATILLA COUNTY POTATO SHOW

CELEBRATING 104 YEARS

of Community Tradition

SINCE 1922 ★ WESTON, OREGON

SPECIAL
AWARD

FIRST
PLACE

Name: T.H. Perkins
Lot #: 13 category: Tomatoes
Variety: Heirloom

WESTON MOUNTAIN
SEED POTATO
IMPROVEMENT ASSN
WESTON, OREGON

100 LBS. NET WT.
PACKED

SINCE
1922

104 YEARS OF
COMMUNITY
TRADITION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

MEMORIAL HALL ★ WESTON, OREGON

*Honoring our agricultural roots while celebrating
community, creativity, and local talent.*

★ SPONSORS NEEDED ★



Help preserve a 104-year
community tradition.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

- ★ GOLD SPONSOR \$500
- ★ SILVER SPONSOR \$250
- ★ BRONZE SPONSOR \$100

Your support helps fund ribbons,
awards, advertising,
and event operations.

★ VENDORS & EXHIBITORS WANTED ★



Showcase your talents
and products.

Seeking:

- Craft Vendors
- Food Vendors
- Handmade Goods
- Produce & Garden Entries
- Canning & Preserved Foods
- Handiwork & Hobbies

*Blue ribbons and
bragging rights await!*

★ VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ★



Be part of this historic event.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Setup
- Registration
- Judging Assistance
- Hospitality
- Cleanup

*Even a few hours
makes a difference.*



SUPPORTING THE WESTON FOOD PANTRY

Enjoy the famous Everything Potato Lunch & Dessert
while helping support local families through food pantry donations.



★ HOSTED BY ★

WESTON AREA
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

QUESTIONS OR INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING?



541-626-7229



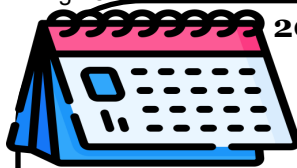
WADA97886@gmail.com



SCAN ME
TO VISIT

www.WestonOregon.com

★ ★ LET'S KEEP OUR TRADITION GROWING! ★



2026 Weston Calendar

Weston History Exhibit Opens at the Long Branch Cafe—Come view the exhibit's photos and related historical research. Sponsored by WADA.

July 3—America 250—Weston Celebrates

October 24—104th Annual Potato Show

AA Meeting on Thursdays at 5:30pm at Weston Community Church. All are welcome!

Weston City Council meeting 3rd Tuesday at 6pm.

Oregon 250 Calendar:



<https://tinyurl.com/w6hmzafr>

Share your meeting dates and events here!

List your meetings and events here! Deadline is 25th each month.

Email: WADA97886@gmail.com



**FIND US ON
FACEBOOK**

Be sure to "Like" Our Facebook page
@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.



Be sure to "Like"

**Weston's Facebook page
@CommunityofWestonOregon**



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

**IF YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS ABOUT
HEALTHCARE
INSURANCE
AND LEGAL MEDICAL
DOCUMENTS, THIS MAY
BE THE PLACE
TO START**



Trish Neal, LegalShield Associate 907-717-8117
TrishaNeal@hotmail.com
<https://TrishNeal.WeAreLegalShield.com>

WADA is a Member of:



National Trust for Historic Preservation

**Preservation
Leadership Forum**

Nonprofit Association of Oregon
<https://nonprofitoregon.org/>



prespartners.org

**The Weston Walking Tour
is Online at:
www.WestonOregon.com**

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



Local Links

Weston-McEwen High School: <http://wmhs.athwest.k12.or.us>

Athena-Weston School District: <http://www.athwest.k12.or.us>

Weston Middle School: <http://wms.athwest.k12.or.us/>

Athena Elementary School: <http://aes.athwest.k12.or.us/>

Weston Planning Commission: <https://tinyurl.com/ypz5fdn6>

Weston Community Development: <https://tinyurl.com/ypz5fdn6>

Weston Historic Landmarks Commission: <https://tinyurl.com/ypz5fdn6>

Weston Parks and Recreation Commission: <https://tinyurl.com/ypz5fdn6>

Umatilla County Pioneer Association: <https://umatillacountypioneerassociation.com/>

Domestic Violence Resources: <https://www.dvs-or.org/>

24 Hour Crisis Line 1-800-833-1161 Pendleton 541-276-3322 Hermiston 541-567-0424



The Roundhouse Foundation Pledges Funds for Historic Commercial District Survey

WADA was informed recently by the Roundhouse Foundation, Sisters, Oregon, that they have been approved for a pledge of \$5,000 to be used to fund the proposed Historic Commercial District in downtown Weston. WADA is required to provide documentation of a minimum of 70% of the project funds in order to receive the pledge. WADA is waiting to hear back on two grants so far. The group will still need additional funding to cover the total cost of the project at \$28,588.78.

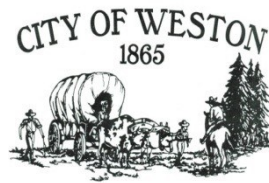


This project will include the onsite architectural survey and analysis of 13 historic buildings located within the Weston Historic District in Weston, Oregon. These surveys will include visual and pictorial inspection of the building. The architect, Shannon Sardell, will follow up with a report discussing each building, propose historic preservation projects and rank them from critical to high then medium and low priority.

The survey is needed for grants for future restoration projects. WADA has discovered that more and more grants will require this information. Having the survey done on all of the buildings saves individual property owners the cost of having the survey done on their respective properties. Once the survey is completed, each property owner will be provided with a copy of the report of their property.



When was the last time you attended a city council meeting? These citizens are unsung heroes who work tirelessly for the community. Greg Phillips, Bill Boyd, Carol Kirk, Darla Joy, and Mayor Mike Dowd. Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday, 6:00pm, at the Memorial Hall. Attend in person or via Zoom. The agenda is published on the city's website: <https://www.CityofWeston.org>



SUPPORT THE

Isham Saling House

PRESERVING WESTON'S HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS





A PIECE OF WESTON'S PAST.
WORTH PRESERVING.

EVERY GIFT HELPS RESTORE
THE ISHAM SALING HOUSE

IshamSalingHouse.com



ISHAM
SALING



MALINDA
SALING

Preserving the Farmers Bank

A CALL TO ACTION FOR HISTORIC RESTORATION

Help us protect a cornerstone of Weston's history for generations to come.



THE FARMERS BANK BUILDING • WESTON, OREGON



YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

The city has secured **\$32,000** in grants from the Wildhorse Foundation and The Kinsman Foundation to initiate the restoration. However, current bids and estimates exceed **\$128,000**, leaving a funding gap of approximately **\$96,000** that must be filled to complete the south wall's restoration.



Despite its enduring legacy, the rear of the building—especially the south side—faces serious threats due to severe weathering and ground settlement, exacerbated by its proximity to Pine Creek.

Repairs made in the 1970s unfortunately used the wrong type of mortar, resulting in rapid deterioration. While restoration work in 2012 utilized \$190,000 from the city's contingency fund, this was the first such effort in 25 years and did not fully address all necessary repairs.

The City of Weston urgently seeks public support to stabilize the mortar and complete the vital tuck-pointing repairs on the south wall.



The exterior was recently completed for this round of repairs and is awaiting waterproofing once the mortar has cured properly. That should be completed in June.

HOW TO GIVE: DONATION INSTRUCTIONS



ONLINE DONATIONS:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdd2bb34>



CHECK DONATIONS:

Please make check payable to WADA and deliver to City Hall or mail to City of Weston, PO Box 579, Weston, Oregon 97886



CASH DONATIONS:

Take directly to City Hall (do not mail cash)



The Weston Area Development Association (WADA) is partnering with the City of Weston to facilitate donations for this project, making donors eligible for tax credits. WADA is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN: 28-808736669), and all donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Donors are encouraged to consult a CPA or tax attorney for guidance regarding their contributions.



Every contribution, big or small, makes a lasting difference.

THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN WESTON'S HISTORY AND FUTURE!

Potato Show Meeting Called

The time has come to set the date and make other arrangements for the annual Umatilla county potato show, to finance which the sum of \$300 has been appropriated by the county court. There events are held at Weston, potato growing center of the county, potato growing center of the county, and the next will be the sixth annual show.

A meeting of local growers, business people and all-others interested is called for next Monday evening of the Weston Warehouse company. The date will then be selected and an executive committee appointed to handle the affair.

The group having charge of last year's show included Lance Kellough, president; J.V. Smith, superintendent of exhibits; Clark Wood, secretary; Will Hall of Weston mountain, Will Beathe of Baskett mountain and Alex McCorkell of Reed and Hawley mountain.

Weston Leader 1927-08-19 pg 3

AMERICA 250 OREGON

Weston's AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION

at Elliot Park

FRIDAY, JULY 3RD

4:30PM TO 8:30PM

CONTEST FOR THE BEST DRESSED PATRIOTIC INDIVIDUALS

WITH PRIZES FOR THREE AGE GROUPS (LITTLE ONES, TEENS, AND ADULTS)

Free Family Event!

SPONSORED BY THE CITY OF WESTON AND WESTON PARKS AND RECREATION

Transit Bus Schedules

Bus Schedule Links Below

The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla operates the transportation program and offers Free Bus Services.

Commuter Bus Routes - The Hopper, Arrow, Rocket, and Whistler are Commuter-route buses that are primarily connecting outlying areas with a central city through bus service.

Transit Bus Schedules: <https://tinyurl.com/4j6z5ep7>

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 had expired. **New digital map is online!**



<https://IshamSalingHouse.com>



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

Historic Weston, Oregon

A Town Rich in History



www.HistoricWestonOregon.com

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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

Here Are Ways to Support Our Mission & Programs

- ◆ **Become a Member!** Join today!
WADA depends on memberships and donations to cover administrative costs such as insurance, publishing the monthly The Blue Mountain Dispatch, postage, phone, memberships in organizations that benefit WADA, and more.
<https://tinyurl.com/48unenka>
- ◆ **Support the Isham Saling House Restoration Project**
WADA became the Stewards of the Isham Saling House during 2024. While restoration projects have been accomplished, there is more that needs to be done. Your support of this project saves an important Weston icon.
<https://tinyurl.com/hhnvrnu9>
- ◆ **Oregon Cultural Trust**
For more than two decades, the Oregon Cultural Trust has played a vital role in enriching our state's cultural resources, supporting more than 1,600 nonprofits across Oregon. We have woven a unique and awe-inspiring cultural tapestry, united by artistry, defined by stories and guided by wisdom. We are listed as *Weston Area Development Association*.
<https://www.culturaltrust.org>
- ◆ **Leave Your Legacy or Donate Stock Shares** Your legacy lives on with a designated contribution through your Will whether it is a one-time donation or an endowment fund. Donation of stock shares is also a way to support WADA. Please contact us for more information.
WADA97886@gmail.com
- ◆ **Advocate for WADA and Historic Preservation!** Contact your local leaders and your mayor to promote the importance of Historic Preservation in our community. Contact your state legislators and congressional leaders to promote the importance of Historic Preservation in our community as well as state-wide. Historic Preservation projects benefit the local economy.
- ◆ **Employer Gift Match Program** Does your employer offer a matching gift program to allow you to double your donation to a non-profit? We welcome your support. Please contact us for our tax information!

WADA is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization and has not provided any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. All donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law. We recommend that you consult your CPA or Tax Attorney regarding donations. We are registered with Gold Star at <https://www.guidestar.org> and registered with Benevity for ACH donations.

Support Historic Preservation in Weston!

Gold
Transparency
2026

Candid.



Scan QR code to donate

501 (c) (3) nonprofit Tax ID: 88-0783039

Donations may be mailed to:
Weston Area Development Association
PO Box 256
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Six Practical Reasons to Save Old Buildings

By: Julia Rocchi

What is historic, and worth saving, varies with the beholder, but some definition is urgent. Simply put, “historic” means “old and worth the trouble.” It applies to a building that’s part of a community’s tangible past. And though it may surprise cynics, old buildings can offer opportunities for a community’s future.

This article examines both the cultural and practical values of old buildings and looks at why preserving them is beneficial not only for a community’s culture, but also for its local economy.

1. Old buildings have intrinsic value.

Buildings of a certain era, namely pre-World War II, tend to be built with higher-quality materials such as rare hardwoods (especially heart pine) and wood from old-growth forests that no longer exist.

Prewar buildings were also built by different standards. A century-old building might be a better long-term bet than its brand-new counterparts.

Take, for example, the antebellum Kennedy-Baker-Walker-Sherrill House in West Knoxville, Tennessee. Until the City Council approved a zoning deal, the house was threatened by developers’ interests. However, following its classification as a historic site, the house—and its five-brick-thick walls—will be reborn as an office building that could withstand the fiercest of tornadoes.

2. When you tear down an old building, you never know what’s being destroyed.

A decade ago, the Daylight Building in Knoxville was a vacant eyesore. A developer purchased the property with plans to demolish the building to make way for new construction.

However, following multiple failed deals to demolish the building, the Daylight went back on the market. Dewhirst Properties bought it and began renovations only to discover the building’s hidden gems: drop-ceilings made with heart-pine wood, a large clerestory, a front awning adorned with unusual tinted “opalescent” glass, and a facade lined with bright copper.

Beyond surviving demolition and revealing a treasure trove of details, the Daylight reminds us that even eyesores can be valuable for a community’s future.

3. New businesses prefer old buildings.

In 1961, urban activist Jane Jacobs startled city planners with [*The Death and Life of Great American Cities*](#), in which Jacobs discussed economic advantages that certain types of businesses have when located in

older buildings.

Jacobs asserted that new buildings make sense for major chain stores, but other businesses—such as bookstores, ethnic restaurants, antique stores, neighborhood pubs, and especially small start-ups—thrive in old buildings.

“As for really new ideas of any kind—no matter how ultimately profitable or otherwise successful some of them might prove to be—there is no leeway for such chancy trial, error, and experimentation in the high-overhead economy of new construction,” she wrote. “Old ideas can sometimes use new buildings. New ideas must use old buildings.”



Jane Jacobs' book "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" changed the way people saw older buildings. Wikimedia Commons

4. Old buildings attract people.

Is it the warmth of the materials, the heart pine, marble, or old brick—or the resonance of other people, other activities? Maybe older buildings are just more interesting.

The different levels, the vestiges of other uses, the awkward corners, the mixtures of styles, they’re at least something to talk about. America’s downtown revivals suggest that people like old buildings. Whether the feeling is patriotic, homey, warm, or reassuring, older architecture tends to fit the bill.

Regardless of how they actually spend their lives, Americans prefer to picture themselves living around old buildings. Some eyes glaze over when preservationists talk about “historic building stock,” but what they really mean is a community’s inventory of old buildings ready to fulfill new uses.

5. Old buildings are reminders of a city’s culture and complexity.

By seeing historic buildings—whether related to something famous or recognizably dramatic—tourists and longtime residents are able to witness the aesthetic and cultural history of an area.

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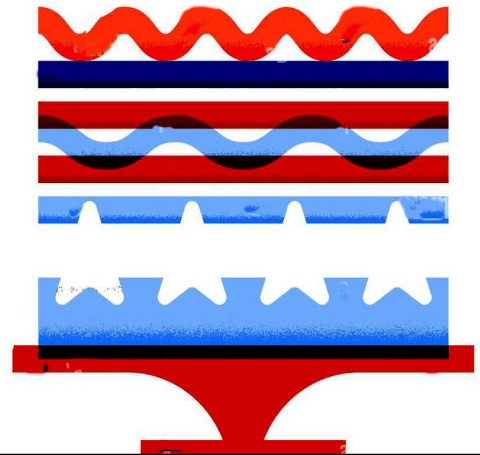
Just as banks prefer to build stately, old-fashioned facades, even when located in commercial malls, a city needs old buildings to maintain a sense of permanency and heritage.

6. 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.

This toolkit originally appeared on March 3, 2014, and was adapted from Jack Neely's article, "Nine Practical Reasons to Save Old Buildings," at Metro Pulse.

<https://savingplaces.org/stories/six-reasons-save-old-buildings>



★ WE NEED ★ VOLUNTEERS!

*Help strengthen our community —
your time makes a difference.*

GET INVOLVED

Whether you can volunteer once or take on a larger role, we'd love to have you join us.

✉ WADA97886@gmail.com
☎ (541) 626-7229

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



WADA Board Members and Advisors

Provide leadership and help guide community initiatives.



Isham Saling House Open House

Assist with welcoming visitors and event coordination.



Annual Potato Show

Be part of a fun local tradition — help with setup, activities, and more.



Annual Weston Citizens Award Dinner

Support this special evening honoring community members.



Grant Writer and Fundraiser

Help secure funding and resources to support our community projects and events.



Together, we can make it happen!

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Enjoy an evening of community, shopping, and supporting local farmers and artisans.

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FRESH IS BEST!

LOCAL HONEY

JUNE 25 JULY 9 JULY 23 AUGUST 6 AUGUST 20

- See you at -

ATHENA TUESDAY MARKET!

JUNE 3RD - SEPT 2ND

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Tuesday 4pm-7pm

Dugger Park Main Street Athena

Athena Mainstreet Association 2025

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WANTED – 100 people to build house at Weston, Or.: free water for 10 years to location in the heart of King Wheat's Empire, a healthful climate, and an ample supply state school in Eastern Oregon; fine building sites on Normal Heights, with city water, shade trees, grading and sidewalks free. Good farms for sale at reasonable figures. Address Weston Improvement Association, Weston, Or. *The Oregon Daily Journal (Portland, Oregon) – Thu, Oct. 30, 1902*

Saling House Cookbook to be Published

The Isham Saling House published a potato recipe cookbook several years ago as a fundraiser. WADA is republishing the cookbook and wants to update it. Do you have a favorite potato recipe that you would like to share? Recipes must be submitted to WADA by September 10, 2026 to be considered for the cookbook. Send your recipes to WADA97886@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name, address, phone number and email. The cookbooks will be on sale at this year's 104th Annual Umatilla County Potato Show.

THE ISHAM SALING HOUSE COOKBOOK

Favorite Potato Recipes from Weston Families

Celebrating Weston Mountain Potato Heritage Since 1922

WESTON MOUNTAIN SEED POTATO IMPROVEMENT ASSY
WESTON • OREGON

A FUNDRAISER FOR THE HISTORIC
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Built in 1880 • Weston, Oregon

<https://IshamSalingHouse.com>

Preserving Our Heritage.

SAVING WESTON'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS.

Preserve Today. Protect Tomorrow.

WESTON AREA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (WADA)



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Help revitalize our community and local economy



Stay informed and make your voice heard



Join a network of neighbors, businesses & supporters



Help keep Weston's history alive for future generations

Your
Support
Makes a
Difference!

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- ✓ WADA (Unrestricted – use donation as needed) \$ _____
- ✓ Isham Saling House (Unrestricted – use donation as needed) \$ _____
Online: <https://ishamsalinghouse.com/donations> (Secure site)
- ✓ Historic Preservation Fund for future projects \$ _____
- ✓ Please send me information about including WADA in my Will or making gifts of stock.



MEMBER INFORMATION

Contact Name: _____

Company/Organization (if applicable): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Your email address will ensure that you receive timely communications from us and helps save postage costs. We do not share your information.

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All donations to WADA are tax deductible as allowable by law. 501(c)(3) Tax ID: 88-0783039

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- | | |
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| ☐ Historic homeowner | ☐ Historic building owner |
| ☐ Contractor/Consultant | ☐ Part of an historic district |
| ☐ Historic Preservation Commission Member | ☐ Planning/Zoning Board Member |
| ☐ I am interested in volunteering | ☐ Historic Society member |
| | ☐ Architect/Engineer |
| | ☐ Non-profit |
| | ☐ Government |

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