



Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024

Reconnaissance Level Survey Report

Summer 2024



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About City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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Cover images from upper left: Majestic Hotel and Club Baths, currently McMenamins' Crystal Hotel, 2023; Lownsdale Square, 1949, Oregon Historical Society; Walk for Love and Justice crossing Portland Burnside Bridge, 1992, Linda Kliewer and Western States Center No on 9 Remembered.

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Description of Project

The City of Portland’s Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) Historic Resources Program launched the LGBTQ+ Historic Sites Project in 2022. The lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer+ (LGBTQ+) Historic Sites Project was funded in part by the National Park Service (NPS) Underrepresented Communities Grant program, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Heritage Grant, and general fund dollars allocated by the Portland City Council. Three distinct yet related project components were developed between 2022 and 2024:

- 1) A historic resource survey of 90 selected resources (this document).
- 2) A historic context statement.
- 3) Individual National Register of Historic Places nominations for Normandale Field / Erv Lind Field, McMenamins’ Crystal Hotel, and Juniper House.

The Historic Resources Program Manager Brandon Spencer-Hartle and Associate Historic Resources Planner Cayla McGrail managed the LGBTQ+ Historic Sites Project for the City of Portland. The project was supported by Secretary of Interior qualified consultants, as well as community volunteers and key informants. Consultants at Salazar Architect Inc., including Ernestina Fuenmayor of Salazar Architect, Kristen Minor of Minor Planning & Design, and Shayne Watson of Watson Heritage Consulting authored the National Register nominations, supported the project team, and provided general guidance.

The Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 Survey identified and documented 90 resources associated with Portland LGBTQ+ history during the period 1905 to 1994. Trends in Portland’s LGBTQ+ history, such as noticeable clusters of resources in the downtown area and inner eastside during certain periods and the use of existing affordable spaces, are illustrated by the records contained in this survey. Coupled with the concurrently developed historic context statement, the Historic Resources Program will utilize the records from this Reconnaissance Level Survey (RLS) to guide future decision – making related to historic resource planning and other planning activities. Information on surveyed resources will be available through both the Oregon Historic Sites Database and the City of Portland’s Historic Resource Program webpage.

The LGBTQ+ Historic Sites Project generally and the Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 Survey specifically would not have been possible without the archival records collected by Oregon Queer History Collective (formerly the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest) and Oregon Historical Society (OHS). OHS houses several Oregon Queer History Collective collections, including oral history interviews conducted by Portland State University LGBTQ Capstone students in collaboration with Oregon Queer History Collective between the 1990s and 2013. Major source documents are listed in the Bibliography section of this report; individual source documents are listed in each record’s bibliography.

Methodology

The LGBTQ+ Historic Sites Project initiated research on sites related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer+ (LGBTQ+) history in mid-2022. Collections from Oregon Queer History Collective and other scholarly sources were utilized to identify over 400 resources demonstrably or potentially connected to Portland LGBTQ+ history within Portland's current 2024 city boundaries. The Historic Resources Program internally mapped these datapoints to visualize geographic distribution across the city. Following the development of the initial list of properties, the Historic Resources Program sought public input and local knowledge through an online questionnaire developed in collaboration with project consultants and volunteers involved with the project.

The project team narrowed the initial list of 400 identified resources to 90 selected resources for the purposes of this RLS survey. Due to limited project funding, not all 400 identified resources could be surveyed through this project. The project team narrowed the list by generally excluding demolished resources, selecting resources with geographic diversity, and elevating resources with known popularity within both broad and diverse LGBTQ+ populations. Prioritizing such a range of resources across different geographies of the city was important to the project team as Portland's LGBTQ+ population was never a monolith concentrated in one area. Many spaces associated with marginalized LGBTQ+ populations are not as widely known, and many have been lost over time. Additional research is required to further identify and document historic resources associated with Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) LGBTQ+ history, trans history, and bisexual history. Lost spaces identified as significant by key informants and in existing archival records influenced the inclusion of a limited number of demolished resources in this survey, such as the Dahl & Penne Card Room formerly on SW Alder Street and SW 2nd Avenue.

This survey project generally prioritized the selection and documentation of public spaces over personal residences, with a few exceptions, that primarily reflect broad National Register Criterion A themes in LGBTQ+ history. The public visibility of and their broader relevance to LGBTQ+ history led the project team to prioritize these public spaces over private residences. Due to the personal harm that could befall an individual if they were publicly identified as LGBTQ+ during much of the 20th century, the residences of LGBTQ+ Portlanders were often private spaces that do not feature prominently in archival records related to LGBTQ+ history. As such, the project team did not want to 'out' Portlanders who found refuge in their private residences during the early and mid-1900s. Of course, this is not to assert that public spaces were not immune from these same risks—many publicly LGBTQ+ associated places were targeted by City of Portland officials and police in a series of anti-LGBTQ+ campaigns during the entire period of this survey, 1905 to 1994. This history, described later in this report, features prominently in the determination of significance of many sites surveyed as part of this project.

A small sampling of individual residences associated with Portlanders who made broad contributions to LGBTQ+ history was documented through this survey. These resources include the residences of activist-doctor Marie Equi, LGBTQ+ activist family the Shepherds, photographer Minor White, and Portland

preservation couple Ben Milligan and Jerry Bosco. Resources associated with other LGBTQ+ individuals may be eligible under National Register Criterion B but were not prioritized in this survey.

Though typical RLS surveys consider resources that are at least 50 or 45 years old (five years added as a buffer to ensure the survey is not immediately out of date), surveys focusing on historically marginalized populations and intangible heritage require special considerations including, but not limited to, expanding the survey period to a more recent end date. This selective survey included properties potentially significant to LGBTQ+ history prior to 1994. This end date of 1994 allows the possibility to identify resources that could be found eligible under National Register Criterion Consideration G for exceptional significance in Portland's LGBTQ+ history.

Several factors contributed to selecting a recent past (30 year) end date for the survey period. Throughout history, LGBTQ+ people have intentionally hidden their identities and the places they frequented as a safety measure; Publicly identifying as LGBTQ+ throughout the 19th and 20th centuries could lead to harassment, arrest, incarceration, job loss, and other negative consequences. Many of these risks are still present today. While some early LGBTQ+ resources are extant, a majority of Portland's known LGBTQ+ historic resources date to the mid- and late-20th century, coinciding with the development of the LGBTQ+ Rights Movement. Some early LGBTQ+-associated resources are extant, at least in part, because they were previously designated and protected for their association with other areas of history, such as architecture.

Another contributing factor to selecting a more recent end date for this survey was recognizing Portland's last comprehensive citywide historic resources survey was completed in 1984. At that time, several thousand resources were documented albeit primarily for architectural significance. Since that time, piecemeal survey and designation efforts have increased the geographic, thematic, and temporal scope of Portland's Historic Resource Inventory. The Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 Survey further develops the diversity of historic resources that have been surveyed since 1984. Notably, many of the resources surveyed as part of this survey project were surveyed in 1984 and/or documented through previous (and unrelated) designation efforts. This survey adds additional potential areas of significance and periods of significance not previously identified and included in the Historic Resource Inventory.

Typical Reconnaissance-Level Surveys often focus on assessing eligibility for the National Register and/or local designation under Criterion C based on the exterior appearance of resources from the right-of-way. Unfortunately, this standard approach to the RLS process does not easily accommodate documenting and evaluating resources associated with historically excluded populations and intangible heritage such as LGBTQ+ history. For this survey project, historical research was conducted before, during, and after survey fieldwork to evaluate each resource's potential significance under National Register Criterion A in the area of LGBTQ+ history. The Oregon Historic Sites Database, building and permit data from PortlandMaps, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, Polk Directories, newspapers, historic photographs, oral interviews, and other archival resources were consulted throughout the process to inform the

documentation and evaluation of each surveyed resource. As a result, more historical information than is typical for Oregon RLS survey entries was gathered and included in each database entry.

In 2023 and 2024, the project team conducted the survey fieldwork. This survey's prioritization of geographic diversity necessitated a primarily car-based fieldwork process. The project team collected architectural descriptions and photographs from the public right-of-way then compiled the data into a spreadsheet. When available, historic photographs and permits were consulted to compare existing resources to their appearance during the period of association with LGBTQ+ history. This allowed for preliminary integrity evaluations, although deeper evaluations would be required for any surveyed resource to be nominated to the National Register.

Following extensive rounds of research and survey fieldwork, the project team evaluated each resource to determine its potential eligibility for listing in the National Register. Available information related to LGBTQ+ history, preliminary integrity evaluations, and preliminary comparative analysis influenced each determination. To the extent practical within the RLS framework, the project team compared resources thematically and within geographic clusters that may yield the potential for future district listings. For some resources, comparative analysis beyond the scope of an RLS would be required to firmly establish such properties as the most representative of a type or association. Examples of this are the group of properties associated with Portland LGBTQ+ activist-doctor Marie Equi, sites associated with the 1912 "Vice Clique" scandal arrests of men associated with a network of men engaging in same-sex activities, properties associated with the women's bookstore A Woman's Place Bookstore, and adult-oriented bookstores historically concentrated along SW 3rd Avenue and SW Taylor Street. Many of these properties may have multiple associations with different aspects of LGBTQ+ history, even if associated with only one person or business.

Boundary Explanation and Justification

The survey area included the City of Portland's 2024 boundaries. A series of significant annexations on the eastern edge of the city during the 1980s and 1990s expanded the City of Portland's boundaries during the survey period.¹ While the city boundary expanded during the survey's 1905 to 1994 period, the survey utilized the city's 2024 boundaries to ensure population and resource diversity were included in site selection and documentation.

¹ See City of Portland Annexation by Decade map, https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/2021/34x44_portland_city_annexations_webmap.pdf.

Historic Context

Portland, Oregon, is located at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. The city's geography inhabits the traditional lands of the Multnomah, Wasco, Cowlitz, Kathlamet, Clackamas, Chinook, Tualatin, Kalapuya, Molalla and other Indigenous peoples. Multiple bridges today connect the east and west banks of the Willamette River, reflecting Portland's expansion and land annexation following white settlement in the mid-1800s. With continuous change to urban landscape, Portland has evolved drastically since its initial platting in 1845 and today boasts a population of over 600,000 people. As detailed in numerous scholarly and community documents, Portland's evolution as an urban area was accomplished through the removal of Indigenous populations, gentrification of historic African American neighborhoods, clearance of immigrant communities, and successive displacement of commercial and residential tenants. Not as widely documented, but of comparable importance, the city's evolution also impacted LGBTQ+ individuals, businesses, and associated geographies during much of the 20th century.

Despite harassment, financial challenges, political targeting, and physical destruction of queer spaces during the 20th century, Portland nonetheless attracted LGBTQ+ people from near and far to plant roots and sow queer life throughout the 1905 to 1994 period. The city still today serves as a prominent home for longtime and new LGBTQ+ residents.² Between 1905 when LGBTQ+ doctor Marie Equi established her first Portland-based practice and 1994 when Oregonians defeated anti-LGBTQ+ Ballot Measure 13, Portland shifted from its conservative Stumptown reputation to its liberal City of Roses identity. Throughout this period, Portland's LGBTQ+ communities developed their own personalities within evolving national trends of LGBTQ+ identity, self-expression, connection, harassment, resilience, and care.

The selective Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 survey showcases resources associated with broad intersecting themes in LGBTQ+ history. A local LGBTQ+ historic context statement developed in tandem with the survey explores these themes in greater detail. Drawing from the historic context statement, the following abridged theme summaries contextualize the surveyed resources beyond the narrative description of each resource's specific association with LGBTQ+ history during the 1905 to 1994 period.

² In summer 2023, Oregon Public Broadcasting and Willamette Week reported "more LGBTQ+ people are coming to Oregon" as queer migrants flee anti-LGBTQ+ legislation. See Anthony Effinger, "They Arrived: Portland is Becoming a Haven for Gender Refugees, Willamette Weekly, July 5, 2023.; Rolando Hernandez, "More queer people are coming to Oregon to flee restrictive laws. Service providers seeing increased need," September 2023, Oregon Public Broadcasting, <https://www.opb.org/article/2023/09/04/queer-people-flee-restrictive-laws-for-oregon-service-providers-see-increased-need/>.

LGBTQ+ Identity & Self Expression

Throughout 20th century Portland, diverse sexual and gender identities evolved within spaces where individuals could find and define themselves, first in private and increasingly in public. Due to criminalization of diverse sexual acts starting in the late 1800s, 20th century instances of LGBTQ+ intimacy unfolded within an array of Portland settings where such encounters could occur away from prying eyes: the city's green spaces, theatre balconies, and private residences to name a few. For some, sexual behavior was just that; for others, it was an identity with understandings and acceptance transforming over the 20th century, unique to each person.³

During the early years of the 1900s, and multiplying throughout the latter 20th century, intimate spaces shaped the city's LGBTQ+ cultural and economic landscapes. Bars, bathhouses, bookstores, brothels, dance halls, theaters, and parks catered to LGBTQ+ Portlanders and their sexual subcultures throughout the 1905 to 1994 survey period. For instance, between the 1960s and 1980s, leather bars emerged in the city.⁴ Portlanders John Phillips and Ray Southwick opened JR's (300 NW 10th Ave.) in 1981, which included a basement leather nightclub, The Cell. JR's and The Cell became especially well-known among participants in Portland's leather scene and fostering sexual encounters not unlike what was experienced in bathhouses during this period.⁵ Adult-oriented bookstores, like Eros Bookstore (333-337 SW 3rd Ave.) was one of many bookstores with LGBTQ+ content concentrated on SW 3rd Avenue. In the 1970s, gay bathhouse culture gained steam with the opening of places like the Majestic Hotel & Club Baths (303 SW 12th Ave.) and Club Continental Baths (531 SW Park Ave.) where individuals could find lodging, shared sexual spaces, and a sense of "community and pride in their sexuality."⁶

The availability of explicitly LGBTQ+-serving spaces aligned with the progressive unveiling and transformation of LGBTQ+ identity and self-expression across America in the latter half of the 20th century. In the 1950s, individuals in California formed the Mattachine Society and the Daughters of Bilitis, groups

³ "The concept of identity itself is historically situated" and terms generally reflect the period in which they were coined or popularized. For example, LGBTQ+ Portland resident and activist Susie Shepherd explained in 2000 she uses "gay" to describe herself: "I don't even use the word lesbian very much, because when I started doing this, all we were, were gay. It was the early and mid-1970s and if you were gay, it meant you were homosexually oriented and cool with who you were, and that was it! There were gay men and there were gay women." See Oral history interview with Susie Shepherd, by Erin Sexton and Jamie Walton, SR 4150, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.; Megan E. Springate, ed., *LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History*, (National Park Foundation and National Park Service, 2016), 02-25.

⁴ "Leather" is an umbrella term for a variety of sexual practices including sadomasochism (S/M), bondage, and fetishism. Portlanders involved in the leather community expressed in 1996 that it's "more of a personality or attitude." For additional information on leather, see "History," Resources, Leather & LGBTQ Cultural District, sflatherdistrict.org/history/; Matthew D. Johnson, "Leather Culture," GLBTQ Archive, http://www.glbqtarchive.com/ssh/leather_culture_S.pdf; Inga Sorensen, "Radical Sensualists," *Just Out*, February 16, 1996, 17.

⁵ "Ray Southwick," *Just Out*, January 6, 2006.

⁶ Allan Bérubé traces the eras of bathhouses in phases of ordinary bathhouses, favorite sports in the early 1900s, early gay bathhouses in the 1920s and 1930s, and modern gay bathhouses emerging in the 1950s. See Bérubé, "The History of Gay Bathhouses," *Coming UPI*, December 1984, 34.

which “rupture[d] the consensus that shaped social attitudes toward homosexuality and society’s treatment of gay people,” concludes LGBTQ+ historian John D’Emilio.⁷ Historian Elizabeth A. Armstrong explains in *Forging Gay Identities: Organizing in San Francisco, 1950-1994* how “the names and goals of these organizations suggest that homophile organizations were not centrally concerned with building a public identity, but instead with seeking rights and improving public opinion...”⁸ Though no formal organization of homophile societies occurred in Portland in the 1950s and 1960s, Portlanders still connected to these groups through newsletters and personal correspondences to find resources and affirmation.⁹

Within years of the homophile movement in the 1950s, intersecting social-political movements during the 1960s transformed LGBTQ+ identity and self-expression nationally and in Portland. Individuals and organizations progressively publicly identified as LGBTQ+ with calls to liberate sexuality and diverse genders. In March 1970, Portlander John Wilkinson advertised meetings at Centenary-Wilbur Methodist Church (215 SE 9th Ave.) in hopes of forming a Portland chapter of the emerging Gay Liberation Front, a “coalition of radical and revolutionary homosexual men and women committed to fight the oppression of the homosexual as a minority group and to demand the right to the self-determination of [one’s] own bod[y].”¹⁰ Though Portland’s GLF did not sustain for long, many were inspired to ‘come out’ and live publicly in Portland; Individuals including Ann Mussey, Cindy Cumfer, and Kathleen Saadat recall moving to the city to do just that.¹¹

As Portlanders found their LGBTQ+ identity during the mid and late 20th century, many used art and entertainment to express themselves. As a result, LGBTQ+ art and entertainment played a transformative role in the city’s cultural landscape by the latter half of the 1905-1994 survey period. While some LGBTQ+ artists and athletes remained closeted throughout the 20th century due to societal stigmas, discrimination, and potential repercussions, they nonetheless contributed significantly to various cultural mediums. By the 1970s, with the rise of the LGBTQ+ Rights Movement in Oregon and nationwide, many more artists and entertainers openly identified as LGBTQ+ in their cultural productions. These artists and entertainers

⁷ John D’Emilio, *Sexual Politics, Sexual Communities: The Making of a Homosexual Minority in the United States, 1940-1970* (University of Chicago Press, 1983), 3.

⁸ The Homophile Movement is an umbrella term for the social-political groups of the 1950s and 1960s advocating for early LGBTQ+ rights. See Elizabeth A. Armstrong, *Forging Gay Identities: Organizing Sexuality in San Francisco, 1950-1994* (University of Chicago Press, 2002), 19.

⁹ Peter Boag, “Does Portland Need a Homophile Society?,” *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 105, no. 1 (2004).

¹⁰ John Wilkinson, “Dear Gay, young, and lonely,” *Willamette Bridge*, February 6, 23.; George Nicola, “How the Oregon LGBT Movement was Born,” Oregon Queer History Collective,, Last updated 2019, <https://glapn.org/6130nicolagaymovement.html>.; NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project, *Historic Context Statement for LGBT History in New York*, (New York Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, May 2018), 50, https://www.nyclgbtsites.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/NYC_LGBT_Sites_Context_Statement_102618_web-compressed1.pdf.

¹¹ Ann Mussey, “For the Midwest to Southeast Portland: Coming out in the 1970s,” Portland Social History Guide, <https://pdxsocialhistory.org/stories/from-midwest-to-se-portland.html>.; Oral history interview with Cindy Cumfer, by Erik Funkhouser and Tim Aguirre, SR 11289, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.; Oral history interview with Kathleen Saadat, by Cameron Chambers, March 2, 2010, Black United Front Oral History Project, Portland State University, https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/blackunited_oralhist/7/.

challenged norms, advocated for change, and celebrated Portland's diverse LGBTQ+ experiences, whether through sports recreation, television, radio, music, or print media.

Example surveyed historic resources associated with LGBTQ+ identity and self-expression include the Majestic Hotel & Club Baths (303 SW 12th Ave), Men's Resource Center (3543 SE Main St.), Normandale Field (NE 57th Ave and Hassalo St.), Portland Women's Theatre Company, and Paris Theater (6 SW 3rd Ave.).

LGBTQ+ Connections

Diverse LGBTQ+ organizations multiplied in Portland throughout the latter half of the 20th century, especially following the call to live publicly as an LGBTQ+ person by Portlander John Wilkinson. During the 1970s and 1980s, Portland Gay Liberation Front, The Second Foundation of Oregon, The Lesbian Community Project, and numerous other LGBTQ+ groups offered opportunities for LGBTQ+ Portlanders to find connection, increase queer visibility, and cultivate queer life in non-queer and queer spaces. Youth, people of color, and others marginalized in prominent organizations nourished their intersectional identities in organizations like Portland Youth Alliance, Black Lesbians and Gays United, and the Bisexual Forum during the latter half of the 20th century.

Portland's social venues by and for LGBTQ+ individuals and organizations reflect a dynamic and multifaceted tapestry of LGBTQ+ connections, resilience, and cultural expression. From the emergence of groundbreaking LGBTQ+-owned and -serving bars and nightclubs in the late 1960s to the proliferation of diverse commercial venues and affirming community centers in the 1970s and 1980s, these venues served as hubs for entertainment, leisure, political activism, and mutual support while facilitating the celebration of belonging and shaping of identities.

Example surveyed resources associated with LGBTQ+ Connections include Centenary-Wilbur Methodist Church (215 SE 9th Ave.), Crone Magic (1405 NE Broadway), Embers (110 NW Broadway), City Nightclub in the Howard Auto Company Building (1313 W Burnside), Harbor Club in the Van Rensselaer Block (65-73 SW Yamhill St.), and Urban League of Portland in the Tivoli Theater (2509-2531 N Williams Ave.).

Harassment and Resistance

Major anti-LGBTQ+ political moments— the 1912 Vice Clique Scandal, the mid-century anti-vice campaigns led by Portland mayors Dorothy Lee McCollough and Terry Schrunck, and the 1990s Ballot Measure 13— provide insight to Portland's history of LGBTQ+ harassment and resistance, though countless individual instances of homophobia, transphobia, racism, and sexism impacted the lives of LGBTQ+ Portlanders throughout the 20th century.

In November 1912, Portland's "Vice Clique Scandal" heightened public anxiety regarding sexuality, sparked a public discourse on the boundaries between public lives and private sexual activities, and influenced the state's broadening of criminal definitions of "sodomy" with increasingly severe punishment for related charges.¹² Sixty-eight men, including lawyer Edward McAllister, Dr. Harry Start, and architect Lionel Deane, were implicated by police for participation in a sexual network dubbed the "Vice Clique" by the *Oregon Journal*.¹³ Investigations illuminated various businesses, buildings, and public areas which facilitated intimate and sexual relations between men in the early 1910s. These included the Imperial Hotel (400 SW Broadway, currently Hotel Lucia), Lownsdale Square (SW 4th Ave. and Main St.), and Dr. Start's office in the Medical Building (729 SW Alder St., currently the Park Building). By January 31, 1913, legislators enacted Oregon House Bill 145, extending the 1853 criminalization scope to encompass any form or practice of "sexual perversity" with an increase in potential incarceration durations for those convicted under this new criminal code.¹⁴

Between the 1940s and 1960s, the nationwide "Lavender Scare" heightened discrimination and political targeting against people with diverse genders and sexualities.¹⁵ With Congress enacting legislation to surveil LGBTQ+ venues and exclude LGBTQ+ individuals from federal employment, local mayors Dorothy McCullough Lee and Terry Schruck prominently linked queerness to suspected vice, deviance, public health issues, economic disparity, and urban blight. Lee's anti-vice campaign efforts led to the closure of two LGBTQ+ bars in 1950.¹⁶ Schruck's early administration in the 1960s sought to eliminate publicly available indecent materials, which included newsletters from the Mattachine Society or Daughters of Bilitis, available in Portland stores and close six LGBTQ+-serving venues by denying liquor license recommendations.¹⁷

Despite this concerted effort to eliminate queer press, venues, and residents from Portland throughout the 20th century, numerous LGBTQ+ individuals and allies resisted these oppressive measures. For instance, the owner of Derek's Tavern (820 SW Oak St.) and other bar owners hired local attorneys to

¹² Boag, *Same-Sex Affairs: Constructing and Controlling Homosexuality in the Pacific Northwest* (University of California Press, 2003), 203.

¹³ The now defunct *Portland News* "sensationalized the story" with inaccuracies and innuendoes to boast its readership. This also led to other newspapers, such as the *Oregon Journal* to begin coverage and coin the term "Vice Clique" for reference to the unfolding events. See George Painter, "The Vice Clique Scandal of 1912-1913," Oregon Queer History Collective, <https://www.glapn.org/6040vice.html>; "One Attempts Suicide; Eleven Under Arrest," *Oregon Daily Journal*, November 17, 1912, 1.

¹⁴ See General Laws of Oregon 1913, page 56, enacted Jan. 31, 1913, quoted in George Painter, "Oregon Sodomy Law," Oregon Queer History Collective, <https://www.glapn.org/6070sodomylaw.html?query=sodomy%20laws&case=&whole=&phrase=>; Boag, *Same-Sex Affairs*, 204.; Oregon State v. Harry A. Start, Trail Transcripts, 262, 296,319.

¹⁵ David Johnson, *The Lavender Scare: The Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government* (University of Chicago Press, 2004).

¹⁶ Boag, "Does Portland Need a Homophile Society," 15-16.; Auditor, Council Documents, Item no. 1117, March 16, 1950, City Archives.; Paul C. Pitzer, "Dorothy McCullough Lee: The Successes and Failures of 'Dottie-Do-Good,'" *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 91 (Spring 1990): 5- 42.

¹⁷ "Smut Books Flood City," *Oregon Journal*, March 18, 1963, 1, 9.; "Council Mulls Treatment of Bars Where Unsavory Characters Gather," *Oregonian*, December 4, 1964, 21.

defend the right for any individual to be served at bars during Shrunck's political campaign to close LGBTQ+-serving bars in 1964. The Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) agreed these bars had not committed any legal violations by serving LGBTQ+ patrons and denied the City Council recommendation.¹⁸

The success of the 1964 bar battle, and the decriminalization of sodomy in 1971 did not reduce LGBTQ+ Portlanders' experiences of discrimination in employment, housing, family law, the press, and society at large during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Thus, Portland LGBTQ+ political activism expanded to advocate and support legislation protections in addition to access to public space and consensual sex. From 1972 to the mid-1990s, LGBTQ+ organizations and individuals were actively involved in drafting legislation, testifying, campaigning, and fundraising to continuously push forward sexual orientation protections locally and statewide. Working with supportive politicians, sexual orientation protections were achieved for City of Portland employees in 1974 and Oregon executive branch employment and services in 1987 (Executive Order 8720); Protections for non-city employed Portlanders and all Oregonians would come much later.¹⁹

By 1988, the Oregon Citizen's Alliance (OCA) exemplified national political campaigns promoting anti-LGBTQ+ "family values" and "no special rights."²⁰ The OCA targeted a range of issues and became "best known for sponsoring ballot initiatives that would undo protections" for LGBTQ+ Oregonians.²¹ The group's first anti-LGBTQ+ campaign to overturn Executive Order 8720 under Ballot Measure 8 ("Revokes Ban on Sexual Orientation Discrimination in State Executive Branch") was approved with 52.75% of Oregon voters.²² With this successful ballot measure, OCA launched its largest campaign in the early 1990s with Ballot Measure 9 ("Amends Oregon Constitution: Government Cannot Facilitate, Must Discourage Homosexuality, Other 'Behaviors'") and Ballot Measure 13 ("Amends Constitution: Governments Cannot Approve, Create Classifications Based on, Homosexuality").²³ Though focused on

¹⁸ "OLCC Overrides Ban On 6 Taverns," December 18, 1964.; "Homosexuals" newspaper clipping file, OHS Research Library; *Oregonian*, December 4, 1964, 21.; Boag, "Does Portland Need a Homophile Society?," 30.

¹⁹ Portland passed an ordinance protecting sexual orientation and gender identity in employment, housing, and public accommodations in 1991. Statewide protections were passed in 2007, after being introduced in the 1973 legislative session. See George Nicola, "Milestones in Oregon LGBTQ Law," Oregon Queer History Collective, <https://www.glapn.org/6012MilestonesLGBTQLaw.html>.

²⁰ Randy Blazak, "Oregon Citizens Alliance," Oregon Encyclopedia, Last Updated May 25, 2022, https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/oregon_citizens_alliance/#.YkH9CefMLGg.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Regional Politics and Policies in the Special Collections and Archives Research Center, "Measure 8 (1988)," Oregon State University, Special Collections and Archives Research Center, <https://guides.library.oregonstate.edu/politicsandpolicies/Measure8>.

²³ George Nicola, "Oregon Anti-Gay Ballot Measures," Oregon Queer History Collective, <https://www.glapn.org/6013OregonAntiGayMeasures.html>.

reversing LGBTQ+ rights, the larger strategic goal of the measures' proponents aimed to reverse many inclusive legal protections and civil rights gained over the latter half of the 20th century.

Diverse coalitions formed in opposition to Ballot Measure 9 and Ballot Measure 13, leading to defeats of both measures in 1992 (56% margin) and 1994 (51.5%). Following Ballot Measure 13, activists laid the foundation for Oregon's "first statewide political organization" working for LGBTQ+ rights, Basic Rights Oregon.²⁴ The defeat of Measure 13 in 1994 concludes the survey and context time period for the LGBTQ+ Historic Sites Project.

Example surveyed resources associated with Harassment and Resistance include Lownsdale Square (SW 4th Ave. and Main St.), The Harbor Club in the Van Rensselaer Block (65-73 SW Yamhill St), and Derek's Tavern in the Myler Building (303- 324 SW 9th Ave).

LGBTQ+ Care

Homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, and racism permeated healthcare services both nationally and in Portland throughout much of the 20th century. Many medical professionals and academics subscribed to entrenched, problematic paradigms that stigmatized and excluded LGBTQ+ people. Viewing non-conforming genders and sexualities through a pathology lens, healthcare professionals attributed medical concerns solely to an individual's gender identity and expression and/or sexuality. Medical professionals thus justified invasive and harmful procedures in misguided efforts to eradicate this supposed pathology of queerness from society by attempting to "cure" perceived "pathological," "abnormal," and "deviant" sexual orientations, gender identities, and personal expressions.²⁵ Detrimental medical perspectives of LGBTQ+ identities, coupled with their oppressive implementation throughout society, led to long-lasting stigmatization of LGBTQ+ Portlanders and impacted their access to healthcare, housing, employment, and, in some instances, custody of their children.

The practice of Marie Equi, the city's first openly queer physician from 1905 until her retirement in 1931, stands out as a non-conforming figure in Portland's early 20th century medical history, offering insight into potential queer competent health services. Practicing in various downtown Portland offices, including the Medical Building (729-735 SW Alder St.), Equi's commitment to holistic health and advocacy for

²⁴ Heather Burmeister, "Basic Rights Oregon," Oregon Encyclopedia, Last Updated September 7, 2022, https://www.oregonencyclopedia.org/articles/basic_rights_oregon/#:~:text=In%201988%2C%20for%20example%2C%20the,sexual%20orientation%20in%20state%20employment.; Basic Rights Oregon, "Our History," About, <https://www.basicrights.org/history.>; Oral history interview with Cathlyn Abbruzzese, by Brian Fritzen and Justin Scott, 2013 February 27, SR 11365, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

²⁵ Sarah Baughey-Gill, "When Gay was Not Okay with The APA: A Historical Overview of Homosexuality and its Status as a Mental Disorder," Occam's Razor 1 (2011): 6 – 16, <https://cedar.wvu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1001&context=orwww.>

marginalized communities characterized her thirty-year practice.²⁶ She partnered with birth control advocate Margaret Sanger to revise editions of *Family Limitation* to increase accessibility of birth control information to working-class women while serving as one of few Portland physicians providing abortions in the early 1910s.²⁷ While the exact number of queer patients she treated is unknown, her status as an openly queer figure in Portland likely influenced LGBTQ+ Portlanders to seek out her medical care.²⁸

Starting in the 1970s, many Portland area providers, scholars, and advocates established their own practices aimed at better serving diverse patients.²⁹ Portland's LGBTQ+-founded and -led healthcare environment emerged during this time, coinciding with the LGBTQ+ rights movement. Initiatives took shape in various settings, including bars, bathhouses, stores, private residences, churches, office buildings, dental clinics, and hospitals. These locations served as hubs for community-led healthcare efforts, offering temporary and ongoing services tailored to specific needs.³⁰

Though grassroots care organizing included sexual health hygiene for decades, the latter half of the 20th century radically changed society and healthcare with the onset of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.³¹ Moreso, HIV/AIDS activism marked "the first social movement in the United States to accomplish the large-scale conversion of disease 'victims' into activist-experts;" Members of the developing AIDS Movement of the 1980s "taught themselves the details of virology, immunology, and epidemiology" enabling them to advocate for themselves and others effectively.³²

Within months of Oregon's first reported case of Kaposi sarcoma (KS), a rare cancer appearing as purple lesions on the skin which has become a defining illness associated with HIV/AIDS, hospitals, clinics, and community-based care programs played complementary and vital roles in providing medical treatment,

²⁶ For more information about Equi's medical practice locations, see Michael Helquist, *Marie Equi: Radical Politics and Outlaw Passions* (Oregon State University Press, 2015), 55 – 62, 100, 108, 122, 145, 250n20.

²⁷ Ibid, 85-98; Helquist, "'Lewd, Obscene, and Indecent': The 1916 Portland Edition of *Family Limitation*," *Oregon Historical Quarterly* 117, no. 2 (Summer 2016).

²⁸ Equi examined gender-nonconformist Harry Allen during his incarceration in September 1912. See Helquist, *Marie Equi*, 97-98; Helquist, "Transgender Appearance in 1912 Portland, Oregon," Politics and Passions Blog, MichaelHelquist.com, April 15, 2016, <http://www.michaelhelquist.com/politics--passions-blog/transgender-appearance-in-1912-portland-oregon>.

²⁹ For an overview of U.S. LGBTQ+ Health history, see Katie Batza, "LGBTQ and Health," in *LGBTQ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History*, edited by Megan E. Springate (National Park Foundation, 2016), 22-1 – 22-26.

³⁰ Scholar Susan Ferentinos emphasizes that "the boundaries between politics and health, or separatism and social life, for example, are...not impermeable," thus allowing an "array of property types" to be associated with LGBTQ+ health. See Susan Ferentinos, "Beyond the Bar: Types of Properties Related to LGBTQ History," *Change Over Time* 8, no. 2 (Fall 2018) 144 – 163.

³¹ Activist, sociologist, and HIV/AIDS historian Cindy Patton stresses "the strategies employed before 1985 or so grew out of gay liberation and feminist theory." See Cindy Patton, "Resistance and the Erotic: Reclaiming History, Setting Strategy as We Face AIDS," *Radical America* 20, no. 6 (Facing AIDS: A Special Issue), 68.

³² Stephen Epstein, *Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge* (University of California Press, 1996), 8.

care, psychosocial support, medical research, and advocacy.³³ This network of medical institutions and grassroots organizations increasingly collaborated to address multifaceted needs of individuals with HIV/AIDS. Grassroots care programs filled gaps in mainstream healthcare systems, offering much more personalized support, assistance with daily living activities, and community support. For instance, in 1983, LGBTQ+ counseling center Phoenix Rising (408 SW 2nd Ave., Suite 420) played a pivotal role establishing Cascade AIDS Project (CAP). CAP swiftly developed educational materials and programs to aid Portlanders affected by the epidemic.

As the epidemic continued to unfold into the mid-1980s, Portlanders with HIV/AIDS experienced worsening healthcare services due to increased need and demand for care. Obtaining care was expensive, and discrimination from hospices, nursing homes, and healthcare staff was high.³⁴ By 1987, Juniper House (2006 SE Ankeny St.) opened as the city's first HIV/AIDS hospice, offering a much-needed comfortable space for people denied care in other hospice facilities.³⁵

To safeguard individual and provider privacy, exact locations and information associated with LGBTQ+ healthcare facilities in historical and public records were often intentionally obscured or withheld. Yet, various sites are known to have hosted one-off meetings, workshops, and other health-associated gatherings that contributed to Portland's diverse healthcare historical landscape. Together, sites linked to LGBTQ+ healthcare represent substantial contributions to the city's comprehension and care of diverse genders and sexualities.

Example surveyed resources associated with LGBTQ+ Care include The Medical Building (729-735 SW Alder St.), The Selling Building (610 SW Alder St.), Phoenix Rising (620 SW 5th Ave.) and Juniper House (2006 SE Ankeny St.)

Data Summary

Resource Types and Uses

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) classifies historic resources as buildings, sites, districts, structures, or objects. Though many surveyed resources are associated with only a portion of a building,

³³ The identity of this individual is unknown. For more information about KS, see, "Kaposi Sarcoma," Cancer Types, American Cancer Society, <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/kaposi-sarcoma.html>; "It's Not Over: 40 Years of HIV/AIDS in Oregon," Oregon Historical Society, 2023.

³⁴ Patrick O'Neill, "Nursing Homes Not Taking AIDS Victims," *The Oregonian*, November 6, 1987.

³⁵ Juniper House's history, and its significance during the HIV/AIDS epidemic, is detailed in a National Register of Historic Places nomination. The draft nomination is available as a PDF through Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. See "Nominations Under Consideration," State Advisory Commission on Historic Preservation, Commissions and Committees, Oregon Heritage, Oregon Parks and Recreation, <https://www.oregon.gov/oprd/OH/Pages/Commissions.aspx>.

such as a commercial storefront or an office in a large building, this survey was conducted using the resource types recognized by the National Register.

This survey was intentional in its attempts to include a variety of resource types to better understand the diversity of LGBTQ+ history in the built environment. Of the 90 resources included, various landscapes such as sidewalks, streets, parks, and a sports field were documented. One structure, the Burnside Bridge, was included. The majority of the 90 surveyed resources were buildings. The survey did not document any objects dating from 1905 to 1994 associated with LGBTQ+ history. Although several potential districts exist (discussed further below), these districts were not surveyed in whole and are therefore not counted in the data summary.

Resource Type	# of Surveyed Resources
Building	85
Site	4
District	0
Structure	1
Object	0

Within the building type, surveyed resources exhibited a wide range of use categories. Most surveyed resources (37%) are categorized as “commercial / trade”: businesses, specialty stores, restaurants, and general commercial properties. The second most prevalent use category is “domestic” (36%); however, this category includes resources initially constructed as residential buildings later converted for commercial use. The Hester A Galloway House, surveyed for its association with A Woman’s Place Bookstore between 1980 and 1985, is reflective of this discrepancy between original use and the use associated with the survey’s focus on LGBTQ+ history. Additionally, various downtown hotels were surveyed not necessarily for connection to queer residences, but instead for associations with LGBTQ+ events. The Benson Hotel is an example; In the 1930s the hotel basement venue hosted impersonation shows and in the 1980s the hotel hosted the fundraising dinner for LGBTQ+ political organization Right to Privacy. These LGBTQ+ associated uses may be different from the original use provided in surveyed records; where possible, the LGBTQ+-associated use was entered into the secondary use field.

Resource Age

Resources fifty years of age that retain sufficient historic integrity are typically considered eligible for listing in the National Register if they meet one or more significance criteria defined by the National Park Service. As of 2024, 1974 is the “50 – year mark.” A resource less than fifty years old may be eligible for

listing in the National Register if it is of “exceptional importance,” or is an integral part of a National Register eligible district.

Though resources were not surveyed for significance under Criterion C, the construction dates of resources surveyed for this project reveal a large concentration of older buildings and places dating to the pre-Depression era. Of the extant resources surveyed, 85% were constructed before 1930. The 1878 Franz Building at 122 - 124 SW Yamhill Street is the oldest extant building surveyed; However, its period of association with LGBTQ+ history did not begin until November 1960 when it became the second location of the Half Moon Tavern.

Construction Decade	% of Extant Surveyed Resources	LGBTQ+ Association Decade	% of Extant Surveyed Resources
Before 1900	18	Before 1900	-
1900-1909	21	1900-1909	3.4
1910-1919	23	1910-1919	5.68
1920-1929	20	1920-1929	1.14
1930-1939	2	1930-1939	3.4
1940-1949	4	1940-1949	4.55
1950-1959	7	1950-1959	3.4
1960-1969	1	1960-1969	18.18
1970-1979	-	1970-1979	26.13
1980-1989	-	1980-1989	28.4
1990-1999	-	1990-1999	4.55

A gap between the date of construction and the date of association with LGBTQ+ history is typical among surveyed resources. This gap demonstrates the prevalence in the 20th century for LGBTQ+ populations and/or businesses to occupy spaces in existing buildings. Because of the lack of clear connection between date of construction and date of LGBTQ+ association, the project team tracked the first decade a resource was known to be associated with LGBTQ+ history, albeit many resources have multiple periods of LGBTQ+ association. Only six resources were associated with LGBTQ+ populations immediately or within two years of the property’s construction. The median gap between construction date and date of LGBTQ+ association is about 61.5 years.

With many resources potentially achieving significance in LGBTQ+ history in a time frame of less than fifty years at the time of survey, listing these more recent past properties in the National Register would

require establishing exceptional significance to meet Criterion Consideration G. With the exceptional significance of LGBTQ+ history generally, and the temporal realities of this history, the project team determined many resources from the pre-1994 recent past would nonetheless be eligible for the National Register.

Architectural Styles and Materials

Historic resources often illustrate a combination of architectural styles. In these cases, both a primary and secondary style may be assigned to the resource. While many surveyed resources had been previously documented for architectural significance, the project team assigned architectural styles to all surveyed resources despite architecture not being the area of history prioritized by this survey.

The most prevalent architectural style of surveyed resources is 20th Century Commercial (20 resources). This aligns with the high percentage of commercial/trade uses documented. Italianate (5 resources) and Queen Anne (5 resources) are tied for the second most common architectural styles, coinciding with the high percentage of pre-1930s buildings.

The most prevalent original exterior materials found on surveyed resources are brick (54%), stucco (13%), wood (13%), and concrete (7%).

Most exterior alterations to surveyed resources occurred before the period of LGBTQ+ association and/or were not directly related to LGBTQ+ history. A few resources, such as Hotel Alma and Juniper House, were known to have undergone interior alterations before, during, and/or after their period of LGBTQ+ association.

Preliminary Evaluations

Significance Criteria

The National Register of Historic Places criteria for listing are defined in *National Register Bulletin Number 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. The criteria are as follows:

CRITERION	DESCRIPTION
A	Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
B	Properties that are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past
C	Properties that 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	Properties that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.
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All resources were evaluated for potential significance under Criterion A in the area of LGBTQ+ history. Though not all areas of potential significance or additional National Register Criteria were explored due to this survey's focus on LGBTQ+ history, 5 resources were found to be also potentially significant in the area of women's history and 1 resource was found to be also potentially significant in the area of African American history. Eight resources were evaluated under Criterion B for association with individuals significant in Portland's LGBTQ+ history. Two resources, The Gilbert Building and Washington Hotel, were preliminarily evaluated under Criterion C for their association with LGBTQ+ architect, Lionel Deane.

Integrity

The National Park Service defines integrity as the ability of a historic resource to convey its significance. Integrity is evaluated as the sum of seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define a resource's integrity. These aspects are defined in *National Register Bulletin Number 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. The aspects of integrity are as follows:

INTEGRITY	DESCRIPTION
LOCATION	The place where the historic resource was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.
SETTING	The physical environment of a historic resource
MATERIALS	The physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic resource.
WORKMANSHIP	The physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.
DESIGN	The combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a historic resource.
FEELING	The historic resource's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.
ASSOCIATION	The direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic resource.

When nominating a property to the National Register, it is important to determine which of these aspects are most related to the significance of the resource; it is not necessary for a resource to retain all its historic features or characteristics to be eligible for the National Register. For example, for resources

significant under Criterion A or B, materials may not be as key to the resource’s significance as location and setting. Given that this survey did not focus on architectural significance, aspects of location, setting, feeling, and association were generally given more attention than aspects of materials, workmanship, and design.

For this survey, in depth evaluations of integrity for each individual resource surveyed was not possible. Instead, most resources with a general degree of integrity from their period of LGBTQ+ association were determined to have sufficient integrity. Deeper integrity analysis beyond the scope of this RLS is required for any surveyed properties be nominated to and / or listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Eligibility

This survey resulted in resources being determined to have each of the eligibility determinations (Eligible/Significant, Eligible/Contributing, Not Eligible/Non-Contributing, and Demolished). Seventy of the 90 surveyed resources were existing in the Oregon Historic Sites Database due to previous surveys and/or National Register listings and have an existing eligibility determination related to other areas of history. Eligibility evaluations for resources individually listed National Register of Historic Places and resources in National Register Districts were not modified in the database. Some resources already evaluated as E/C (but not part of a historic district) were elevated to E/S. Resources already evaluated as Eligible/Significant or Eligible/Contributing but determined to be Not Eligible/Non-Contributing in the LGBTQ+ Resources survey were not modified in the database due to their established eligibility under other areas of history. The historical narrative provided in each survey record explains the eligibility determinations for each resource. Therefore, the attached eligibility count does not accurately reflect the determinations made specific to the Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 survey.

Eligible/Significant Resources

Thirty (30) of 90 surveyed resources were determined to be Eligible/Significant in the area of LGBTQ+ history. This includes properties individually listed National Register properties designated for areas of significance other than LGBTQ+ history, existing contributing resources in National Register districts, and resources that have not previously been included in the National Register of Historic Places but that were determined eligible/significant.

Eligible/Significant Resources Individually Listed in the National Register

Thirteen (13) resource listed in National Register (existing determination of E/S) were found to be significant (E/S) under Criterion A in the area of LGBTQ+ history.

Historic Name/ Associated Name	LGBTQ+	Current Address	NRHP Listing Date
Auditorium & Music Hall/ Dinty Moore’s		920-928 SW 3rd Ave	02/22/1980

Benson Hotel	309-319 SW Broadway St	11/20/1986
Burnside Bridge	East /West Burnside St	11/14/2012
Calumet Hotel	620-626 SW Park Ave	09/21/1984
Clyde Hotel	1000-1038 SW Harvey Milk St	1/21/1994
Cornelius Hotel/ Continental Baths Club	801-809 SW Alder St	2/27/1986
Failing Office Building/ Phoenix Rising	620 SW 5 th Ave	10/31/2007
First Unitarian Church of Portland	1011 SW 12 th Ave	11/22/1978
Fisher, Thaddeus, House	913-915 SE 33 rd Ave	3/8/1989
Gilbert Building	333 SW Taylor St	08/29/1980
Hotel Alma/ Majestic Hotel & Club Baths, Club Portland	303 SW 12 th Ave	9/9/2009
Olsen & Weygandt Building	1421-1441 NE Broadway St	02/11/1993
Selling Building	610 SW Alder St	08/15/1991

The National Register nomination for the Hotel Alma, 303 SW 12th Avenue, was amended to include LGBTQ+ history as an additional area of significance; The National Park Service approved the amendment in May 2024.

Eligible/Significant Resources in National Register Historic Districts

One contributing resource listed in a National Register Districts (existing determination of E/C) was found to be individually significant (E/S) under Criterion A in the area of LGBTQ+ history.

Historic Name/ LGBTQ+ Associated Name	Current Address	NRHP Historic District
Van Rensselaer Block/ Harbor Club	736 SW 1 st Ave	Portland Yamhill HD

Eligible/Significant Resources not Previously Listed in the National Register

Sixteen (16) resources have not yet been designated to the National Register of Historic Places but were determined to be E/S under Criterion A or Criteria A and B in the area of LGBTQ+ history.

Historic Name / LGBTQ+ Associated Name	Current Address
Ainsworth United Church of Christ/ HIV Day Center	2941 NE Ainsworth St
Centenary-Wilbur Methodist Church	215 SW 9 th Ave

Church of Good Tidings/ Metropolitan Community Church	2400 NE Broadway
Embers	110 NW Broadway
Exchange Building/ English & Metcalf Law Office	404-418 SW 2 nd Ave
Howard Auto Company/ City Nightclub	1313 W Burnside St
Juniper House	2006 SE Ankeny St
Koinonia House	633 SW Montgomery St
Masonic Temple/ Pythian Building	902-918 SW Yamhill St
Medical Building	729-735 SW Alder St
Myler Building/ Tel & Tel Tavern, Derek's Tavern, Family Zoo	302-324 SW 9 th Ave
Normandale Field	57 th Ave & Hassalo Street
Parkhurst Apartments/ Equi-Speckart Residence	1204 NW 20 th Ave
Shepherd Residence	2538 SW Hamilton St
Washington Park Amphitheater/ Peacock in the Park	404 SE Kingston Ave
Zeller House/ Assisi House	2014 SE Ankeny St

Normandale Field, NE 57th Ave and Hassalo Street, was nominated to the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of women's, LGBTQ+, and entertainment/recreation history for its association with Portland's national championship women's softball team Erv Lind Florists. The National Park Service approved the new nomination in May 2024.

Eligible/Contributing Resources

Forty-six (46) of the 90 surveyed resources were determined to be Eligible/Contributing in the area of LGBTQ+ history. Many of these resources were determined eligible as a result of their concentrations within geographies that may be eligible for listing as an LGBTQ+ historic district(s). These resources include existing individually listed National Register of Historic Places properties designated for areas of significance other than LGBTQ+ history, existing contributing resources in National Register historic districts, and resources that have not been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Eligible/Contributing Resources Individually Listed in the National Register

Four (4) resource listed in National Register (existing determination of E/S) were determined eligible/contributing (E/C) under Criterion A in the area of LGBTQ+ history. However, their existing determination in the database was not modified.

Historic Name/ Associated Name	LGBTQ+	Current Address	NRHP Listing Date
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Dekum Building/ Publishing	City Week	505-519 SW 3 rd Ave	10/10/1980
Morgan Building/ Jolly Joan's Restaurant	Rainbow Grille,	720 SW Washington St	9/12/1996
New Imperial Hotel/ Villa St. Rose/	Imperial Hotel	400 SW Broadway	10/24/2003
House of Light		597 N Dekum St	11/22/2000

Eligible/Contributing Resources in National Register Historic Districts

Eleven (11) contributing resources listed in National Register districts (existing determination of E/C) were determined eligible/contributing (E/C) under Criterion A in the area of LGBTQ+ history.

Historic Name/ LGBTQ+ Associated Name	Current Address	NRHP Historic District
Chung Leon Co. Building/ Bookstore	Scorpio's Adult 831 SW 2 nd Ave	Portland Yamhill HD
Crone Magic	1405 NE Broadway St	Irvington HD
Eberhardt, H, Dr Building/ Northwest Gay Review	201-217 W Burnside St	Portland Skidmore/Old Town HD (NHL)
Franz Building/ Half Moon Tavern	122-124 SW Yamhill St	Portland Yamhill HD
Lambert, A, W, Building/ Bookstore	A Woman's Place 702-710 SE Grand Ave	East Portland Grand Ave HD
Merchants Hotel/ Hobo's Inn	222 NW Davis St	Portland Skidmore/Old Town HD (NHL)
Overland Warehouse Co./ Magic Gardens	Club Northwest, 201-219 NW 4 th Ave	Portland New Chinatown/Japantown HD
Paris Theater/ Productions	Storefront Theater, Triangle 6 SW 3 rd Ave	Portland Skidmore/Old Town HD (NHL)
Philip Hotel/ Rising Moon	401-439 W Burnside	Portland New Chinatown/Japantown HD
Western Rooms Building/ Chocolate Moose	15-27 SW 2 nd Ave	Portland Skidmore/Old Town HD (NHL)
Woodmen of The World Lodge/ Stairs Down	615 SE Alder St	East Portland Grand Ave HD

Eligible/Contributing Resources not Previously Listed in the National Register

Thirty-One (31) resources have not yet been designated to the National Register of Historic Places but were determined to be E/C under Criterion A or Criteria A and B in the area of LGBTQ+ history.

Historic Name/ LGBTQ+ Associated Name	Current Address
Belleville Hotel/ Three Sisters Tavern, Scandals	310 SW 12 th Ave
Blackstone Hotel/ Roxy Heart's World Diner, The Roxy	1103-1121 SW Harvey Milk St
Caples Hotel/ The Rathskellar, Rhumba Room	722-724 SW Taylor St
Club 927	927 SE Morrison St
Empress Hotel/ Milwaukie Tavern	20 NW 16 th Ave
Epicenter	4620 SE 67 th Ave
Eros Theatre	314 SW Taylor St
Equi Residence	1423 SW Hall St
Galloway, Hester A, House/ A Woman's Place Bookstore	2345 SE Ankeny St
Happy Hare Tavern	1730 SW Taylor St
Hard Times Adult Center	311 NW Broadway
Helen's Pacific Costumers	1036 W Burnside St
JOQ's	1422 NE Broadway
JR's West, The Cell	300 NW 10 th Ave
Leatherworks	2900-2908 SE Belmont St
Lincoln High School/ Lincoln Hall	1630 SW Park Ave
Lownsdale Building	834 SW 15 th Ave
Macleay Building/ McMahon's Baths, Olympic Sauna & Baths Downtown	404-418 SW Washington St
Men's Resource Center	3534 SE Main Street
Nickel Star Theatre/ Star Theatre	9-13 NW 6 th Ave
Nortonia Hotel	407-409 SW 11 th Ave
Plaza Blocks/ Lownsdale Square	1021-1121 SW 3 rd Ave
Portland Women's Theatre Company	1728 NE 40 th Ave
Portland YWCA	1111 SW 10 th Ave
Rae, Harold W House/ Hospice House	6171 SW Capital Hwy
Rose City Importing Co Building/ Grand Oasis Tavern	532-538 SW 3 rd Ave
Ship Ahoy Tavern	2889 SE Gladstone St
Stewart Hotel/ Mary's Nightclub	129 SW Broadway
Tivoli Theater/ Urban League of Portland	2509-2531 N Williams Ave
Washington Hotel/ Timber Topper, Axe Handle, The Alley	1129 SW Washington St
Wilde Oscar's	318-336 SW 3 rd Ave

Not Eligible/ Non-Contributing

Twelve (12) of 90 surveyed resources were determined to be Not Eligible/ Non-Contributing in the area of LGBTQ+ history. These determinations were made due to extensive alterations since the potential period of significance or the inability to determine conclusive historical significance in the area of LGBTQ+ history. Sources and community knowledge not yet identified and documented could potentially change these eligibility determinations in the future. The eligibility of resources previously documented as E/C under other areas of history were not modified in the Oregon Historic Sites Database.

Historic Name/ LGBTQ+ Associated Name	Current Address
Atkinson, George H School	5800 SE Division St
Hamilton Building/ Pink Cat Bookstore and Arcade	523-529 SW 3 rd Ave
Hayne, R, H, House/ Cotton Cloud Futon Co	3125 E Burnside St
Herizon Auto Repair	2653 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Jamboree Room Tavern	2517 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Marv's Inn	2216 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Mr. Peep's	707-711 SE 112 Ave
Oregon Theater	3535 SE Division St
Our House	2727 SE Alder St
Palace Hotel/ A.B.C. Restaurant	1218 SW Washington St
Playmates Body Art Studio & Club	3004 SE 50 th Ave
Treves Hotel/ Joyce Hotel, Fish Grotto	1035-1039 SW Stark St

Demolished

Two (2) surveyed resources were demolished prior to 2024. They were included in the LGBTQ+ Resource because of their potentially high historical significance.

Historic Name	Address
Dahl & Penne Card Room	Formerly 604 S.W. 2 nd Ave
"The Camp"	Formerly the streets of SW 4th, 5 th , Yamhill, and Morrison

Observations

The Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 Survey revealed several trends associated with LGBTQ+ historic resources, including the following:

- 1) Geographic concentrations of LGBTQ+ resources shifted and developed simultaneously throughout the 20th century, often reflecting economic challenges some LGBTQ+ individuals experienced in making and maintaining queer spaces.
- 2) Geographic concentrations of LGBTQ+ resources are associated with different resource types. For instance, downtown had a higher density of bars while the inner eastside had a higher density of specialty stores during the survey period.
- 3) LGBTQ+ people often adopted existing spaces and venues throughout the 20th century to serve LGBTQ+ Portlanders. The adaptation of existing spaces into LGBTQ+ owned and serving establishments was often done in the face of potential harm during periods of harassment and oppression. For example, established downtown hotel bars and bathrooms provided avenues for same-sex meetings in the early 20th century, especially for people searching for sexual encounters.

The Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 survey also highlighted the city's specific LGBTQ+ historical trends, including:

- 1) Portland religious facilities and church-run coffeehouses were among the first welcoming venues for LGBTQ+ youth while providing space and supportive services to LGBTQ+ Portlanders starting in the mid-1960s.
- 2) Pockets of Portland's inner eastside fostered a variety of LGBTQ+ resources primarily associated with Portland LGBTQ+ women between the 1960s and 1990s.

Recommendations

The following recommendations result from the survey team's experience researching and documenting the 90 survey properties and evaluating their significance. The recommendations may be advanced by government, non-profit organizations, community interest groups, students, property owners, and/or residential and commercial tenants.

Engagement

The LGBTQ+ Historic Sites Project developed connections with LGBTQ+ Portlanders during 2022 and 2024 and invited involvement in a variety of ways: attending and participating in LGBTQ+ events, one-on-one meetings, an open online questionnaire, blog posts and news articles, and an ad-hoc advisory committee that met during 2023 and 2024. The project's engagement strategy was crucial for expanding available information on Portland LGBTQ+ history. Though this project could not be made possible without existing work led by many LGBTQ+ Portlanders documenting and preserving archival materials, those materials have gaps that may not be exhaustive and inclusive of all Portland history. Much of the existing research, archival materials, and identified LGBTQ+ historic resources tend to focus on white gay

and lesbian experiences in the latter half of the 20th century. The project team intentionally worked to connect with Portlanders with intersections less reflective in archival materials to develop a deeper understanding of Portland LGBTQ+ history.

Maintaining and expanding connections with LGBTQ+ Portlanders in the preservation of LGBTQ+ historic resources is critical for future LGBTQ+ historic preservation efforts. LGBTQ+ Portlanders can ensure authentic representation by incorporating personal knowledge and lived experiences to identify, document, and contextualize LGBTQ+ history. This engagement of people with lived experiences offers the potential to also greatly expand available source material utilized in research and documentation, potentially leading to increased understanding of the intersectionality of resources.

Recognizing and Celebrating LGBTQ+ History Broadly Across Portland

The identification, documentation, and preservation of historic resources associated with Portland's LGBTQ+ history is just one strategy to recognize and celebrate LGBTQ+ history across the city. Developing and implementing other tools to make LGBTQ+ historical information publicly available and relevant is critical, especially as many LGBTQ+ historic resources surveyed in this project cannot alone communicate their significance without interpretation or educational programs aimed specifically at uplifting this long excluded history. This strategy may employ existing and emergent public history techniques.

One existing program desired by some LGBTQ+ Portlanders is the deployment of plaques and public right-of-way markers, especially for resources that have been demolished.³⁶ Plaques could creatively highlight and publicize a resource's LGBTQ+ history, much like the one outside of the National Register listed Darcelle XV. Plaques for the newly designated Normandale Field / Erv Lind Field and amended Hotel Alma follow a more typical National Register plaque approach though they include text specifying these resources have been designated for LGBTQ+ history. New plaques should continue elevating LGBTQ+ history whether through the more graphic style of the Darcelle XV plaque or the typical bronze historical marker. With additional plaques around the city, LGBTQ+ historic resources could be connected and contextualized together, easily informing thematic and/or geographic LGBTQ+ maps and walking tours.

Additionally, digital humanities are emergent tools preservationists should include in the expanding strategy of documenting and celebrating historical places. Plaque installation on building facades or in

³⁶ Centenary-Wilbur Methodist Church has an existing exterior plaque to elevate its LGBTQ+ history; it has been defaced and needs repair. LGBTQ+ Portlanders have shared with this project and the developing Darcelle XV Plaza Project thoughts on historical markers. See "Darcelle XV Plaza Project," Construction, Parks and Recreation, Portland.gov, <https://www.portland.gov/parks/construction/darcelle-xv-plaza-project>.

the right-of-way may be difficult with issues of ownership, regulations, and agreed upon content. As such, ArcGIS StoryMap or other virtual programs like GeoTourist could mitigate these challenges and expand public history content.

The City of Portland's Historic Resources Program received funding from Oregon State Historic Preservation Office in 2024 to develop a StoryMap on the LGBTQ+ resources documented within this project. This StoryMap will serve as a pilot for the City creating interactive and dynamic content drawing together primary research, historic context, and survey records. The StoryMap is expected to be completed in late 2024.

Multiple Property Documentation

The Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 Survey is a baseline documentation of historic resources associated with LGBTQ+ history. Considering over 400 resources were identified prior to survey field work, future historic resource surveys should focus on and include these yet-to-be-documented LGBTQ+ resources. This is especially important for resources associated with intersections of Portland's LGBTQ+ populations that are less represented in this first survey, such as bisexual, trans, and Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color. Including these less represented resources may be easier in the future as more sources not yet identified become available. Future surveys may also focus on neighborhoods, which could aid in the development of district boundaries (see District Potential). Priority geographies should also focus on those areas where intersectional LGBTQ+ histories are most likely to be located.

This survey, and potential future surveys, may inform a National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation (MPD) form. MPDs streamline the method of organizing information collected in surveys to provide a basis for evaluating the National Register eligibility of related properties. MPDs are useful for nominating and registering thematically related historic resources. By evaluating and comparing common resources, an MPD can be used to establish preservation priorities based on historical significance. An MPD would be an important tool as there are many resources that could be comparatively analyzed, such as the multiple locations of A Woman's Place Bookstore. Additionally, by including a historic context for associated properties, the amount of time, research, funding, and expertise necessary for individual National Register nominations may be reduced.

Amended and New National Register of Historic Places Listings

Many resources identified throughout the duration of the LGBTQ+ Historic Sites Project and documented as part of the Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 Survey are existing individual National Register of Historic Places properties or part of existing National Register districts. While meeting requirements at the time of their initial nomination, many older nominations are often deficient by current standards.

Potential additional criteria, areas of significance, or periods of significance may have been overlooked, or unknown, at the time of nomination.

Updating existing nominations to incorporate additional criteria, expanded historical narratives, areas of significance, and periods of significance, advances the goals of an inclusive National Register program. Amending nominations through a National Register Continuation Sheet to include LGBTQ+ History as an additional area of significance is a comparatively straightforward avenue to continue diversifying the National Register given that these resources already have owner consent and physical descriptions.³⁷ As seen with the Hotel Alma continuation sheet accepted in May 2024, comparative analysis and a discussion on the resource's integrity related to LGBTQ+ history is required, but a full new nomination is not. Examples of existing National Register nominations that have potential to be updated to include LGBTQ+ history as an additional area of significance include:

Selling Building: Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, the Selling Building is also significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of LGBTQ+ history for its association with gender-affirming medical care procedures.³⁸

Olsen and Weygandt Building: Listed on the National Register of Historic Places individually and contributing to the Irvington Historic District, the Olsen & Weygandt Building is also significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of LGBTQ+ history for its association with multiple LGBTQ+ businesses contributing to NE Broadway's LGBTQ+ enclave in the 1980s.³⁹

Fisher, Thaddeus House: Individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C, The Thaddeus Fisher House is also significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of LGBTQ+ history for its association with the work of Jerry Bosco and Ben Milligan, and Criterion B as the first house associated with the couple.⁴⁰

³⁷ For guidance on updating nominations, see "Amending National Register Documentation," *National Register of Historic Places Best Practice Review*: 3 (April 2023): 1-8.

³⁸ See John M. Tess and Richard E. Ritz, *Selling Building*, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Ref # 91001554. National Park Service, 1991.; National Park Service. "Expressions as Diverse as the Landscape: The Selling Building, Portland, Oregon." Articles. Finding Our Place: LGBTQ Heritage in the United States. Last Updated February 20, 2018. <https://www.nps.gov/articles/expressions-as-diverse-as-the-landscape-selling-building.htm>.

³⁹ See John M. Tess and Richard E. Ritz, *Olsen and Weygandt Building*, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Ref # 93000024. National Park Service, 1993.; Don Horn, "Dugan's," Bars, Restaurants, & Taverns, The Umbrella Project, <https://www.umbrellaprojectoregon.com/dugans>; Horn, "Judy's," Bars, Restaurants, & Taverns, The Umbrella Project, <https://www.umbrellaprojectoregon.com/judys>.

⁴⁰ See K. Zisman, J. Koler, J Morrison, B. Grimala, A. Yost, *Fisher, Thaddeus House* National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Ref # 89000092. National Park Service, 1989.; Lainie Ettinger, "Urban Lives, Old Spaces: A Valentine's Story," Architectural Heritage Center. <https://visitahc.org/blog/urban-lives-old-spaces-a-valentines-story>.

Several resources not yet individually designated to the National Register of Historic Places that were determined eligible/significant in this survey have potential to be designated in the future. The City of Portland sent out notices to all resources surveyed, which may develop into owner consent required in Oregon.

District Potential

The survey results demonstrate the potential for several areas of the city to be considered for district destination for different aspects of LGBTQ+ history. Portland's LGBTQ+ associated resources shifted over time, opening the opportunity to consider multiple areas for district potential. Further, intersections of Portland's LGBTQ+ history are associated with specific areas of the city, providing opportunity to elevate different aspects of LGBTQ+ history in each district. The areas with district potential identified in the Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024 Survey include:

“The Dirty Triangle”: “The Dirty Triangle” was one of the earliest concentrations of downtown LGBTQ+-serving venues from the late 1940s to the early 1980s roughly bounded by the Willamette River, SW 4th Avenue, SW Alder Street, and SW Madison Street, with the ‘heart’ located at SW Alder Street and SW 2nd Avenue. This area’s proximity to the waterfront helped develop its popularity among working-class LGBTQ+ clientele.⁴¹ LGBTQ+ Portlanders such as Walter Cole Sr. / Darcelle, Tom Cook, and George Painter, knew and referred to this area as the “Dirty Triangle” in part because of its concentration of LGBTQ+ bars, including The Harbor Club (736 SW 1st Ave.), Dahl & Penne (demolished), and The Other Inn (demolished). By the late 1970s, the Grand Oasis Tavern (243 SW Alder St.) further developed the ‘triangle’ on SW Alder Street and SW 2nd Avenue.

“The Burnside Triangle”: “The Burnside Triangle” was a visible concentration of downtown LGBTQ+-serving venues from the late 1940s to the late 1990s roughly bounded by W Burnside St., SW Harvey Milk St., SW 10th Ave., and SW 13th Ave. Though venues such as the Music Hall (formerly 413 SW 10th Ave, demolished) offered impersonation shows as early as 1938, the area strongly developed LGBTQ+-associations in the late 1960s with the opening of The Pied Piper bar (303 SW 12th Avenue) and Roman’s Riptide (formerly 949 SW Stark Street, demolished). By the 1970s and 1980s, this area attracted additional LGBTQ+ establishments, such as the Majestic Hotel & Club Baths

⁴¹ Scholar Jayden Dirk discusses this class-based boundary in “In a Garden of Deviant Roses: Encountering Queer History in Portland, Oregon, 1941-1974,” (Thesis, Whitman College, Walla Walla, Washington, 2020) [map: 40; text: 43-2, 155-156].

(303 SW 12th Avenue), Scandal's (first at 1000 - 1038 SW Stark St., now SW Harvey Milk St.), and C.C. Slaughters (first at 1014 SW Stark St., now SW Harvey Milk St.).⁴²

Old Town: Within the area of the existing Skidmore / Old Town and New Chinatown / Japantown National Register Districts, there is potential for an overlapping LGBTQ+ historic district potentially bounded by the Willamette River, NW Everett St., NW Broadway St., and W Burnside St., SW 3rd Ave., and SW Ankeny St., dating from approximately the late 1960s, if not earlier, to the 1990s. As described by other scholars, this area historically served as a "major West Coast locus" for diverse populations of working class, transient laborers, immigrants, and ethnic populations who found inexpensive lodgings and various entertainment venues that could and did facilitate same-sex sexual interactions throughout much of the 20th century.⁴³ Dance halls, burlesque theaters, bars, and inexpensive lodging contributed to views of the area as a "vice" district. By the late 1960s, LGBTQ+ venues found space and success in the area "historically claimed" by disenfranchised peoples where building owners might not object to certain uses and clientele.⁴⁴ Surveyed examples that would be contributing to this LGBTQ+ district overlapping the Skidmore / Old Town and New Chinatown / Japantown historic districts include the LGBTQ+ bar Club Northwest in the Overland Warehouse Co building, lesbian bar Rising Moon in the Philip Hotel (401 - 439 W Burnside St.), LGBTQ+ friendly restaurant Hobo's Inn in the Merchants Hotel (222 NW Davis St.), LGBTQ+ newspaper *Northwest Gay Review* office in the Dr. H Eberhard Building, Embers (110 NW Broadway), and Star Theater (9 - 13 NW 6th Ave.)

NE Broadway: NE Broadway, in Northeast Portland bounding the existing Irvington National Register District, is a street that was associated with numerous LGBTQ+ venues during the 1970s to early 1990s. Primarily located between NE 14th Ave., and NE 26th Ave., Judy's (1441 NE Broadway), JOQ's (1422 NE Broadway), and Metropolitan Community Church (2400 NE Broadway) contributed to the developing enclave of LGBTQ+ culture along this street. Future survey and research may discover additional LGBTQ+ venues on this street; a 1995 flyer entitled "Out on Broadway Stroll" noted "many fine shops, restaurants, and institutions...are gay-and-lesbian owned."⁴⁵

⁴² The 2024 National Register amendment to Hotel Alma discusses the development of this area's LGBTQ+ association and culture. See Kristen Minor, "Hotel Alma National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet," (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, May 2024), Section 8.

⁴³ For further discussion on the district's vice history, see Liza Mickle, Nicholas Starin, Jeffrey Uecker, "Skidmore/ Old Town Historic District National Historic Landmark Nomination Revised Documentation," (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, August 2008), Section 8.

⁴⁴ Kristen Minor and Don Horn argue this for Darcelle XV, stating that being in a location considered "skid row" was promising for "an establishment that allied itself with 'sexual deviants' (in the words of Portland Mayor Dorothy McCullough Lee) first as a lesbian bar and later as a drag venue." See Kristen Minor and Don Horn, "Darcelle XV," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2020), 31, 33.

⁴⁵ Flyer, Gay and Lesbian History, Series B: Gay and Lesbian Community Organizations and Resources, Box 2, Folder 27, Oregon Historical Society, Portland, Oregon.

Inner Southeast Portland: Southeast Portland, particularly the area roughly bounded by SE Hawthorne Blvd., SE Belmont St., SE 20th Avenue, and SE 39th Avenue (now Cesar E. Chavez Boulevard) was an area associated with lesbian-feminist residences and venues during the 1960s to 1990s. Multiple collective houses like Red Emma Collective and businesses such as Crone Magic (3240 SE Hawthorne Blvd.) and Echo Theatre (1515 SE 37th Ave.) supported this population and reinforced this association.⁴⁶ By the early 1990s, Geography scholar Rachel Ann Hardyman argued that “being a feminist [lesbian] commercial strip distinguishes the district most clearly from other commercial areas in Portland. A large number of the stores and restaurants on Hawthorne are owned by politically active women, and several businesses serve as social centers for the lesbian community.”⁴⁷

Other Preservation Tools and Strategies

Despite the prominence of National Register designation in preservation practice, other tools and strategies have potential for preserving intangible heritage and LGBTQ+ historic resources. This report focuses on potential cultural districts, a Legacy Business Program, and historic preservation incentives as emergent strategies.

Cultural Districts

While potential for National Register designated historic districts exist, so too does the potential for LGBTQ+ cultural districts. Cultural districts have risen in preservation practice, especially in San Francisco, as a strategy to celebrate, strengthen, and protect a city’s diverse cultural heritage with place-making and place-keeping aspects. As seen in San Francisco’s district program, the cultural district program is not exclusive to physical preservation to maintain the unique assets and resources within the boundary; For example, tenant protections and economic and workforce development have been prioritized to protect intangible history. In this way, cultural district programs can better respond to the social and economic realities that culturally specific historic resources are currently facing.

A cultural district approach may be valuable in revitalizing areas historically associated with LGBTQ+ history. For instance, though the “Burnside Triangle” area has a high concentration of resources historically associated with LGBTQ+ history, redevelopment in the nearby Pearl District has heavily impacted the area resulting in only one actively LGBTQ+ identified and serving resource (Scandal’s)

⁴⁶ LGBTQ+ Portlanders including Ann Mussey, Kristan Knapp, and Bonnie Tinker lived collectively in a house known as “Red Emma” in this year, though Mussey does not provide a specific address. See Oral history interview with Ann Mussey, by Justine Larson and Brooke Welch, SR 4148, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

⁴⁷ Rachel Ann Hardyman, “Hawthorne Boulevard: Commercial Gentrification and the Creation of an Image,” (M.A. Thesis, Portland State University, 1992), 20.

remaining in use as of 2024. Establishing a cultural district could potentially support this resource with tools beyond traditional bricks-and-mortar preservation.

Legacy Business Program

LGBTQ+ resources documented in this survey have played integral roles in Portland's social, economic, and cultural fabric for decades and many are at risk of loss. LGBTQ+ historic resources and other historically marginalized spaces have long faced dangers of displacement and gentrification as they their owners have often lacked financial resources to maintain the operation given economic realities of gentrification and displacement.

In August 2023, Portland City Council accepted a grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration for the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to study opportunities to broaden and diversify the City's historic preservation programs to better recognize places of social and cultural importance. Staff will be studying existing legacy business programs in other cities, analyzing a range of policy alternatives, and developing recommended actions for City Council consideration in 2026. This survey may influence the development of the Legacy Business Program. For instance, criteria for legacy business designation might be sensitive to the historic contexts of intangible histories. Additionally, initial inventories of legacy businesses might pull from this survey.

Historic Preservation Incentives

Historic preservation incentives increase the potential for historic resources to be used, rehabilitated, and preserved. In Portland, a variety of these incentives are provided by local, state, federal, and non-profit entities. Many of them prioritize rehabilitation of designated historic resources in accordance with local regulations and/or federal historic preservation standards. Additional financial incentives may offer the potential to help ensure the ongoing preservation of LGBTQ+ historic resources.

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Historic Building Report/Counts

(All Properties Inventoried)

Evaluation Counts - Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024

Evaluation	Quantity	% of Total
demolished	2	2%
eligible/contributing	45	50%
eligible/significant	34	38%
not eligible/non-contributing	9	10%
Total:	90	

Construction Date Decade Counts - Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024

Decade	Quantity	% of Total
Unrecorded	2	2%
1850s	1	1%
1870s	2	2%
1880s	4	4%
1890s	10	11%
1900s	19	21%
1910s	21	23%
1920s	18	20%
1930s	2	2%
1940s	4	4%
1950s	6	7%
1960s	1	1%
Total:	90	

Original Use Counts - Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024

Original Use	Quantity	% of Total
COMMERCE / TRADE	33	37%
DOMESTIC	32	36%
EDUCATION	2	2%
HEALTH CARE	2	2%
LANDSCAPE	1	1%
RECREATION & CULTURE	8	9%
RELIGION	8	9%
SOCIAL	3	3%
TRANSPORTATION	1	1%
Total:	90	

Material Counts - Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024

Materials	Quantity	% of Total
BRICK	49	54%
CONCRETE	6	7%
METAL	1	1%
OTHER	1	1%
STONE	1	1%
STUCCO	12	13%
SYNTHETIC SIDING	4	4%
Undefined	4	4%
WOOD	12	13%
Total:	90	

Historic Building Report/Counts

(All Properties Inventoried)

Style Category Counts - Portland LGBTQ+ Historic Resources 2024

Style Categories	Quantity	% of Total
VICTORIAN ERA		
Italianate	5	
Queen Anne	5	
Renaissance	3	
Romanesque	3	
Category Total:	16	18%
OTHER		
Not Applicable	3	
Utilitarian	1	
Vernacular	4	
Category Total:	8	9%
MODERN PERIOD		
International	2	
Modern Commercial (Type)	3	
Modern Period: Other	1	
Northwest Regional	2	
Ranch (Type)	1	
Category Total:	9	10%
LATE 20TH CENTURY		
Late 20th Century: Other	1	
Mansard	4	
Post-Modern	1	
Category Total:	6	7%
LATE 19TH/20TH CENT. PERIOD REVIVALS		
Arts & Crafts	2	
Beaux Arts	3	
Colonial Revival	3	
Late Gothic Revival	1	
Mediterranean Revival	6	
Renaissance Revival	2	
Spanish Revival	1	
Tudor Revival	4	
Category Total:	22	24%
LATE 19TH/20TH CENT. AMER. MOVEMENTS		
Commercial (Type)	20	
Craftsman	2	
Foursquare (Type)	1	
Late 19th/20th Amer. Mvmts: Other	1	
Category Total:	24	27%
CLASSICAL REVIVAL		
Classical Revival: other	2	
Georgian	1	
Category Total:	3	3%
Unrecorded		
Unrecorded	2	
Category Total:	2	2%
Total:	90	