

## Oregon's Most Endangered Places List Announced by Restore Oregon In Tandem with Presentation of DeMuro Awards

Nov. 5, 2014 – Restore Oregon announced its 2015 list of [Oregon's Most Endangered Places](#) this evening at a gala event in Portland. Culled from nominations submitted from across the state, each is a significant historic structure in imminent danger of being lost to hard times, development pressures, demolition, or neglect, and each will receive assistance and a seed grant from Restore Oregon.

In happy contrast to the endangered places, five exceptional success stories of historic preservation, reuse, and community revitalization were honored with the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual [DeMuro Award](#) at the same event which the organization describes as a “Restoration Celebration.”

Keynote speaker for the evening was **State Treasurer, Ted Wheeler**, who noted the cultural and economic development opportunities inherent along Oregon's historic Main Streets. Restore Oregon Executive Director, Peggy Moretti, seized the opportunity to call for better financial tools to attract investment in historic properties and described the organization's efforts to pass a state [Historic Rehabilitation Incentive](#) in 2015.

### The list of Oregon's Most Endangered Places for 2015 includes:

- **First Congregational Church Bell Tower**, Portland (1895) – These bells have marked weddings, funerals, holidays, and the end of World Wars, but like many historic churches, maintenance costs have mounted. Of three original towers, only one remains and a small congregation must raise \$490,000 for restoration.
- **Grand Staircase**, La Grande (1929) – Designed by John Bennes in the Renaissance Revival style, the stairs connect the Eastern Oregon University campus with the city of La Grande. In EOU graduation ceremonies, graduates stood along the stairs which symbolized their future. Closed because unsafe, restoration estimates have approached \$1M.
- **Gray Building**, Portland (circa 1900) – An African American-owned business for over a century, this building has been the site of business and cultural pride, and the struggle for civil rights in NE Portland. Demolition for redevelopment is pending, but some family members are hoping for restoration and reuse as a retail space that incorporates black history exhibits.
- **Mildred Kanipe House, Oakland (1865)** – The Kanipe family homestead was a cattle, sheep, and goat ranch. Mildred Kanipe gifted the property to Douglas County as a park and equestrian campground which has become well-used. But the house sits empty and deteriorating rapidly. The “Friends of Mildred Kanipe Memorial Park” hope to restore and reopen the home for educational and community events.

- **Shipley-Cook Barn**, Lake Oswego (1862) – A rare example of Oregon pioneer hand-hewn construction, this is one of the oldest buildings in Clackamas County. Obsolete for agricultural use with most of the acreage sold off, it sits on the edge of the urban growth boundary in need of a foundation, rehabilitation, and a productive new use.
- **Smith Straw Barn**, Cave Junction (1896) – Mortise and tenon joints and wooden pegs secure the hand-hewn timbers of this relic along the Caves Highway. Donated to ODOT along with 16 acres, it was intended as a scenic wayside stop or campground, but was never maintained. Today it needs urgent stabilization and preservation.
- **Wong Laundry**, Portland (1908) – Emblematic of immigrant struggles and work ethic, this building played a central role in the evolution of Portland’s “New Chinatown.” Vacant and water-damaged since a fire in 1970, members of the community hope to restore it as a combined commercial space, event space, and interactive museum.

A profile of each endangered place will be featured on the Restore Oregon website where readers can track their progress throughout the year. Visit [www.RestoreOregon.org](http://www.RestoreOregon.org).

**Recipients of the 2014 DeMuro Award** for projects exemplifying excellence in preservation, adaptive reuse, and community revitalization are:

- **Fire Station No. 7**, Portland (1927) – Serving SE Portland’s Buckman Neighborhood, Fire Station No. 7 was one of 24 fire houses designed by Fire Chief Lee Gray Holden, and is said to have been the pride of his career. Decommissioned and long-neglected, it was rehabilitated for office use while retaining its character-defining features, including the fire pole. (Venerable Properties, Emerick Architects, Bremik Construction)
- **Galleria Building / Target**, Portland (1910) – Known historically as the Olds, Wortman, and King Department Store, the Galleria Building was first saved from the wrecking ball by Bill and Sam Naito. It continued to struggle until the opportunity came along to return it to its department store roots as an urban Target store. Historic features were restored, even as modern retailing systems were incorporated and a sleepy corner of downtown was revitalized. (Bill Naito Company, FFA Architecture and Interiors, and KPFF Engineers)
- **The Irvington Tennis Club**, Portland (1912) – Beautiful and functional, a reconceived addition to the original Ellis Lawrence-designed clubhouse is highly compatible with the historic main building and the surrounding National Register-listed neighborhood. (Irvington Tennis Club, Scott | Edwards Architecture, P&C Construction)
- **Meier & Frank Depot/Vestas N. America HQs**, Portland (1927) – Empty for over a decade, a sad landmark on the edge of Portland’s Pearl district has been transformed into 21<sup>st</sup> century workspace. Now headquarters for Vestas North America, Urban Airship, and Gerding Edlen,

this project offers LEED Platinum proof that historic preservation and sustainability go hand in hand. (Gerding Edlen, GBD Architects, Skansa Construction)

- **Whiteside Theater**, Corvallis (1922) – An icon in a historic downtown struggling for a cultural and economic renaissance, the Whiteside had gone “dark” for many years until an intrepid band of volunteers tackled a structural rehab and restored the 1950s marquee. (Whiteside Theater Foundation, Andrew Pearson Architecture, Bob Grant Construction)

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