

Minutes
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
March 25, 2019
Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street

Present: Commissioners Gardiner (Chair), Bell, Lewis; Director Black; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Assistant Sullivan

Absent: Commissioners Landt (Co-Chair) & Heller; City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Gardiner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MINUTES

Minutes Acknowledged:

APRC Listening Session	January 24, 2019
Pool Ad-Hoc Subcommittee	February 13, 2019
APRC Goal Setting	February 22, 2019

APRC Study Session – January 14, 2019

Motion: Bell moved to approve the Minutes from January 14, 2019 as presented. Lewis Seconded.
The vote was all yes.

APRC Regular Meeting – January 28, 2019

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the Minutes from January 28, 2019 as presented. Bell Seconded.
The vote was all yes.

APRC Study Session – February 11, 2019

Motion: Bell moved to approve the Minutes from February 11, 2019 as presented. Lewis Seconded.
The vote was all yes.

APRC Regular Meeting – February 25, 2019

Motion: Bell moved to approve the Minutes from February 25, 2019 as presented. Lewis Seconded.
The vote was all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **Open Forum**

Julie Norman of Ashland spoke concerning the Japanese Garden. Norman stated that since the Japanese Garden is on the Goals list, she would like to provide recommendations on how the project should move forward. Norman provided written testimony (see Attachment I).

Rebecca Kay of Ashland spoke about the Daniel Meyer Pool. Kay thanked the APRC staff and volunteers for the work being done on the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool project. Kay spoke in favor of activities to maintain a pool in Ashland. The Pool Ad-Hoc Committee will submit a recommendation in June/July. Upon completion of the Pool Ad-Hoc Committee's work, efforts to continue building community support for the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool will be undertaken.

Casey Botts of Ashland, representing Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association, spoke about the community support of the mountain bike projects included in the draft goals list. Botts stated a willingness to collaborate with APRC and the mountain bike community to keep momentum going once the goals have been adopted. Botts spoke in favor of the order of the goals as listed.

Bryan Holly of Ashland spoke concerning the Japanese Garden. Holly sent an email regarding this issue to the Tree Commission and some APRC representatives. Holly stated a desire to see information about this project in the public meetings of the APRC and the Tree Commission. Holly also spoke about efforts to protect the Boy Scout Douglas Fir Grove, by securing designation as heritage trees. Holly is planning to undertake community outreach to determine if there is a desire to see the grove designated as a heritage grove.

Richard Bernoulli of Ashland spoke in favor of the bike park. Bernoulli spoke about momentum in the community to move this project forward. Boulder has a bike park called Valmont, that could be a model for Ashland. Volunteer trail maintenance projects are well attended in Ashland, showing support for mountain bike trails. Bernoulli spoke about the value of providing bicycle opportunities for kids.

Jocelyn Sanford of Ashland spoke in favor of public swimming pools and thank the Commission for prioritizing the Daniel Meyer Memorial Pool. Sanford stated that the pool is a community asset. Sanford stated that the Rogue Valley Master Swim Team will offer free adult, learn to swim lessons in April.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions or deletions

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business

NEW BUSINESS

a) Marking Ashland Places (MAP) – Public Art and Historic Commission (Action)

Director Black stated that one of the steps required to place public art in Ashland is to get the permission from the property owners. The Railroad Park is managed by APRC. Permission to place the hub sculpture and plaque, as outlined in the proposal, would need to be provided by the Commission for the project to move forward.

Andy Stallman of the Public Arts Commission and Dale Shostrum, Chair of the Historic Commission, gave a presentation (see Attachment II) and provided a written statement (see Attachment III) on the Marking Ashland Places project. The presentation was also given at the February APRC Study Session meeting. Historic photos of the rail road district were added to this presentation which will be utilized as source materials by artists who submit proposals.

Stallman stated that the MAP team would like to locate the hub sculpture in Rail Road Park in a specific location identified in the presentation. Stallman asked the Commissioners for input of the proposed placement of the sculpture and provided an opportunity to answer questions about the project.

Discussion on Marking Ashland Places continued and included the following items:

- Commissioner Gardiner clarified that the Commission would potentially be voting on the placement of the sculpture in Rail Road Park. The City Council will eventually hold a meeting to make decisions on the specific piece of art. The APRC will not formally make a decision concerning the specific piece of art once commissioned
- Commissioner Bell asked as to whether general approval could be given without specifying the exact location of the sculpture
 - Stallman stated that the artists will submit a proposal that is site specific. He is asking for a vote for the specific location identified in the presentation
 - Commissioners discussed this question and determined that it would be beneficial to grant permission for the sculpture to be placed in the proposed location within Rail Road Park
- Stallman stated the Arts Commission will create a selection panel, which will make decisions on proposals and will eventually choose the piece of art that would be presented to City Council for approval. Stallman invited someone from the Commission to sit on the selection panel to represent APRC
- The budget for the Rail Road Park project has not been determined, but the Arts Commission has discussed a sum of approximately \$20,000.
 - Stallman clarified that the Arts Commission budget should include funds for site preparation and is not asking APRC for any funds to implement the project

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the conceptual plan of locating the hub sculpture and plaque in the Rail Road District at this proposed site of the park. Bell Seconded.

The vote was all yes.

b) Silent Disco & Movies in the Park (Action)

Superintendent Dials gave an overview of Silent Movement's Silent Disco & Movie in the Park proposal for 2019. This proposal was also discussed at the March 18, 2019 Study Session. The goal of Silent Movement, a program fiscally sponsored by a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is to bring the community together in creative ways using technology to stay in compliance with noise ordinances. The proposed events would use wireless headphone to broadcast dance music or audio for movies. The events provide a safe place for families to gather and promotes inclusivity for all ages and abilities.

Prior to 2018, Silent Discos were held on the front lawn of Lithia Park without Sponsorship from APRC. In the summer of 2018, APRC and Silent Movement formed a partnership with APRC and the event moved to the bandshell. Attendance dropped due to the less visible location. Ordinance 10.68.060 requires a permit to be issued by APRC for commercial activities. Normally, staff would not bring recreation programs before the Commission, but staff is seeking permission to ensure full compliance with Ordinance 10.68.060. Dials asked for approval of the program as outlined in the staff report.

Jordan Rose of Silent Motion addressed the Commission in response to a question from Commissioner Bell about how the donations will be allocated. Rose stated that donations collected will be utilized to purchase equipment for the events and will fund operational and staff expenses. Additionally, 10-20% of proceeds will be donated to the Ashland Parks Foundation.

Further discussion on silent disco & movies in the park continued and included the following items:

- An effort will be made to cover the license fees for screening movies in the park by seeking sponsorship from local businesses
- Movies will be projected on the inside roof on the bandshell. A screen will not be used.
- APRC does not have a role in setting the suggested donation for events. The suggested donation has been and will be set to \$5 for all Silent Movement events. Those who are unable to pay will not be turned away
- Dates for day time pop-up events will be chosen in consultation with APRC staff
- Hunter Park, Garfield Park and Garden Way Park were identified as possible locations for the pop-up events, which will be much smaller in scale than the events held on First Fridays
- Upon completion of the proposed program, APRC staff & Silent Movement would come back to the Commission for an evaluation of the program

Motion: Bell moved to approve the proposed programs as recommended by APRC staff on a one-year trial basis with flexible dates due to weather or smoke related cancellations with any feedback received from the community presented in a report after the program concludes in October, 2019. Lewis Seconded.

The vote was all yes.

c) 2019/2021 Goal Adoption (Action)

Director Black presented the proposed goals for 2019/2021. There are 18 total goals, which include 3 moving forward from the previous period and 15 new goals. Black read the goals moving forward from past years.

1. Update Trails and Open Space Comp Plans and continue to purchase land according to the plans
2. Develop parks development standards and guidelines
3. Implement/attain easement and purchase agreements on Ashland Pond property and through the few remaining private properties

Black read the top five new goals

1. Design and begin building new East Main Street neighborhood park, including the top priority of the second Ashland dog park
2. Improve public aquatic recreation and competitive options in Ashland consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Pool Ad Hoc Committee and ensure the continuous operation of an adequate recreational pool in Ashland during the summer months, at a minimum until construction begins on a new pool
3. Work collaboratively with Ashland School District to keep Lincoln School playground and fields open to the public
4. Work with volunteers to explore costs and locations for a pump track and a mountain bike skills park
5. Explore suitable locations and build a pickle ball facility within the APRC system, including the Oak Knoll Golf Course, and implement the installation of up to eight new pickleball courts with consideration for lighting and fencing

The goals that would require capital funding are including in the capital budget which will be presented to APRC on April 8, 2019. The goals were taken into consideration during the budget process. The budget seeks to address each one of these goals as a project in the Capital Improvement Plan. Completion of the goals in the next two years will be based on time, location and other factors.

Black proposed the Commission adopt the goals as prepared in the staff report. Commissioner Gardiner called for questions for staff. No questions were posed.

Motion: Bell moved to approve the proposed goals as presented in the staff report. Lewis Seconded.

The vote was all yes.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Superintendent Dials raised an issue regarding a request discussed at the March 18, 2019 Study Session from the Lions Club to serve beer and wine in Lithia Park at the Feast of Will event. Upon further review, it was discovered that a city ordinance would need to be changed to allow alcohol sales in the Park. Dials will research this process and will report back.

Director Black announced that a contingent from Guanajuato, Ashland's Sister City, will be visiting Ashland. APRC will be hosting an event with the group on April 6.

Superintendent Dials announced that the Bike Swap will take place on April 6, 12-2 p.m. at The Grove.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Director Black announced that the Special Meeting on April 8 is being held to present the budget to the Commission. The City Administrator requested that this meeting be held as close as possible to April 10, when Black will present the APRC budget to the City of Ashland Budget Committee.

The following upcoming meetings were acknowledged.

- Current Parks, Conservation & Maintenance – April 2, 2019
 - Lithia Cabin, 340 S Pioneer St —2:00 p.m.
- Pool Ad-Hoc Subcommittee – April 3, 2019
 - Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave —3:30 p.m.
- Special APRC Regular Meeting—April 8, 2019
 - The Grove, Otte-Peterson Room, 1195 E. Main St—5:30 p.m.
- Senior Services Advisory Committee – April 8, 2019
 - Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave —3:30 p.m.
- APRC Regular Meeting—April 22, 2019
 - Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street—7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Gardiner adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Sean Sullivan, Office Assistant II

Mar. 25, 2019 Testimony from Julie Norman

TO: ASHLAND PARKS COMMISSIONERS

FROM: JULIE NORMAN 541/482-4459 julie@juliekaynorman.com

TOPIC: How to proceed on the Japanese Garden Project given the (a) January 28th vote to endorse (Gardiner, Heller, Lewis, and Black) the \$1,300,000 Japanese Garden Project, as presented in the Ashland Parks Foundation proposal letter and 2-page “Plan” and (b) the Jan. 31st decision to suspend the project for a year-long “cooling off” period.

A. ANNOUNCEMENT of a SIGNATURE GATHERING CAMPAIGN by FRIENDS OF LITHIA PARK: In order to demonstrate community support for designating the grove of 12 Douglas firs next to the Japanese Garden as Ashland Heritage Trees, we are now seeking signatures on a petition that will be presented later to decision-makers on the Parks Commission and City Council.

People wanting to sign the petition may do so online at: <https://tinyurl.com/FirGrove>

B. REQUEST to the Long Range Parks Planning Subcommittee: Please host a debriefing session to analyze lingering confusion about the Ashland Parks Foundation Plan during the Project decision-making process from July 2018 through January 2019. This will put us on solid footing for Project planning in 2020.

C. REQUEST to Parks Commissioners: In order to start with a clean slate for reviewing the Japanese Garden Project in 2020, please rescind and withdraw your “yes” vote (3 to 2) on Jan. 28, 2019.

3 REASONS TO RESCIND YOUR JAN. 28th VOTE:

1. The Japanese Garden Project proposal letter from the Ashland Parks Foundation (January 23, 2019) lacks a Board Member name and signature.
2. The \$1,300,000 project’s so-called “plan” consists of two landscape sketches, with no explanatory text and no expense estimates. This lack of detail precluded the necessary due diligence by Commissioners.
3. Parks Commissioners and the public were confused by the Parks Director’s support letter in the Jan. 24 Meeting Packet, because it claimed the “endowment” to cover increased maintenance expenses (\$60,000 per year) would be “permanent.” The Foundation’s donor made a presentation at the Listening Session and clarified that his \$60,000 annual maintenance donations would **not** continue indefinitely. Given this

confusion, the long-term financial feasibility of this Project needs to be revisited.

REFERENCES from the City of Ashland website:

Oct. 17, 2018 Parks Commissioners Staff Report by APRC Director

Oct. 22, 2018 Approved Minutes re: (a) Japanese Garden Presentation

Jan. 24, 2019 Commissioners Meeting Packet from the APRC Director

END of TESTOMONY from Julie Norman on March 25, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 3/24/19

**Ashland, Oregon: News Conference on Monday, Mar. 25, 2019
at 1pm, hosted by Friends of Lithia Park**

Citizens Group Launches Heritage Tree Signature Drive To Protect Historic Boy Scout Fir Grove in Lithia Park

Contacts:

Julie Norman, Outreach Coordinator, julie@juliekaynorman.com, 541-488-9474

Bryan Holley, Media Relations, holley@opendoor.com, 541-488-3866

Location: Lithia Park's Boy Scout Fir Grove (between the Sycamore Grove and the Japanese Garden ... easy access downhill from Granite Street)

Friends of Lithia Park, an informal group of Ashland citizens, announces the launch of a signature drive to support designation of a healthy grove of 12 historic Douglas fir trees as "Ashland Heritage Trees." The trees, known as the Boy Scout Fir Grove, are located between Lithia Park's Japanese Garden and Sycamore Grove, accessible from Winburn Way and Granite Streets.

The linear grove of 100-foot-tall fir trees was planted over 100 years ago in 1916, during the first implementation phase of Lithia Park's *McLaren Plan*, masterminded by the highly respected landscape architect, John McLaren. McLaren is known for his long tenure as Superintendent of Golden Gate Park.

During the Public Forum section of the March 25th (7pm) meeting of the Ashland Parks Commissioners, members of Friends of Lithia Park will announce their campaign to nominate the Fir Grove for Ashland's Heritage Tree List and provide a draft of their application justifying the designation (see attached).

Their petition urges the Ashland Parks Commission and the Ashland City Council to support the Heritage Tree nomination, as follows:

"Please endorse the Ashland Heritage Tree designation for Lithia Park's legacy grove of 12 healthy Douglas fir trees, planted by local Boy Scouts in 1916 between the Japanese Garden and Sycamore Grove. This designation

does not legally limit what can happen to these 12 trees. However, it does acknowledge citizens' desire to preserve them, their beauty, their role in capturing carbon gas, and their significance in the early history of our community and Lithia Park."

Julie Norman: "Since January 28th, when the Parks Commissioners voted (3 to 2) to cut down 2 of the 12 beautiful fir trees, in order to expand the Japanese Garden, many park lovers have rallied to protect them. Last week, when Parks Commissioners added the Japanese Garden Project to their Goals List for the next two years, we were spurred to start this petition campaign to designate them as Ashland Heritage Trees."

Bryan Holley: "Tree science and the Parks Department's certified arborist report by Mike Oxman (Seattle, 206/949-8733) inform us that damaging or killing some members of this fir grove "could have adverse side effects" on the remaining 10 trees "...because they have developed qualities of resisting stress from wind and other conditions within the shelter of Tree #1 and Tree #2." By working to protect the entire grove with the Heritage Tree designation, we are simply trying to catch up with evolving science that now undeniably demonstrates the interconnectedness of trees."

The process for adding trees to the Ashland Heritage Tree List is dictated in a Land Use Planning ordinance, AMC 18.4.5.060. Final approval of nominations is in the hands of the Ashland City Council.

To sign the petition online, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/FirGrove>

END

Attachment:

Draft Application to add Boy Scout Fir Grove to Ashland's Heritage Tree List

Ashland Planning Division ZONING PERMIT APPLICATION
Draft 6 Mar. 24, 2019

Description of Project:

Ashland Heritage Tree Proposal for 12 Douglas Firs (aka Boy Scout Fir Grove)

Description of Property:

Lithia Park on Winburn Way, between Japanese Garden and Sycamore Grove

Applicant: _____, Friends of Lithia Park

Property Owner: City of Ashland, 20 East Main Street, Ashland, 97520

Applicant's Signature: _____

Property Owner's Signature: _____ (City of Ashland)

=====

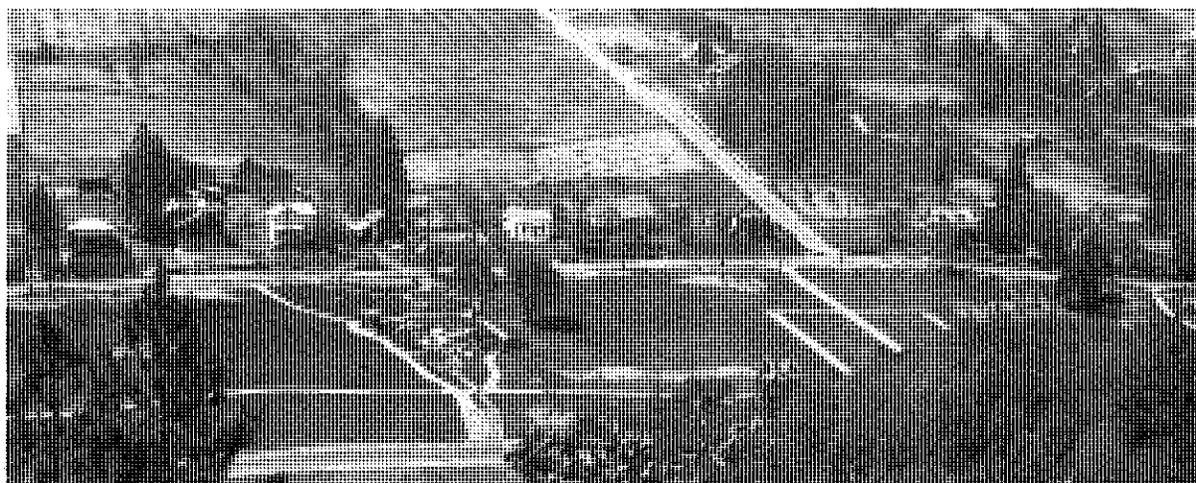
Attachment 1: Findings for Ashland Heritage Tree Proposal

The grove of 12 mature Douglas fir trees (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), located in Lithia Park between the Japanese Garden and Sycamore Grove, is hereby proposed for inclusion in the Ashland Heritage Tree List.

These 12 healthy, majestic trees, also known as the "Boy Scout Fir Grove," qualify for the Ashland Heritage Tree designation for the following reasons:

(a) Historical Significance:

Circa 1915 - View of new Japanese Garden and bed of young Douglas firs



↑ J. Garden ↑ ↑ Fir Grove ↑ S. Or. Historical Society

The 1915 photo above shows the light-colored planting bed with young fir

seedlings along the path west of Winburn Way, just north of the new Japanese Garden. This area was relatively treeless at that time. The Douglas firs were planted by local Boy Scouts from Ashland and Medford. Roscoe and Irwin Doty of Medford (grandfather and uncle of Ashland historian, Tom Doty) participated in the planting.

The fir grove and garden were part of the *McLaren Plan*, implemented in the era of the highly respected landscape architect, John McLaren. Mr. McLaren was instrumental in creating Golden Gate Park in San Francisco during his long tenure there as Superintendent. He worked with his brother, Donald McLaren, on early designs for Lithia Park, primarily in 1914 and 1915.

John Enders' 2016 book, *Lithia Park: Heart and Soul of Ashland*, notes that the *McLaren Plan* was "implemented over many years," forming "the backbone" of today's park. In July 1916, 30,000 people attended the Lithia Park dedication.

McLaren's work was highly influenced by Frederick Law Olmstead, designer of New York City's Central Park. According to John Enders, both of these early park advocates favored municipal parks that "recreated nature in the city" and provided visitors with "a taste of wildness."

(b) Ages of Trees: All are over 100 years (seedlings planted in 1915 or 1916)

(c) Distinctive Form and Health

[Below are excerpts from the "*Arborist Report and Risk Assessment*" (January 18, 2019), prepared by Seattle certified arborist, Michael Oxman, on contract for the Ashland Parks and Rec Department.]

The 200-foot long grove is composed of 12 Douglas fir trees lining the path that runs parallel to Winburn Way. The individual trees are closely spaced, ranging from 8 feet apart to 20 feet apart.

The height of all the trees ranges from about 110 feet to 125 feet. The length of the lower limbs is about 30 feet, making the dripline about 60 feet wide.

The trunks of all the trees flare out in size at the base for extra stability. The buttress points (where each root is attached) were found to be sound.

The metabolic condition of the trees is healthy. These trees are growing well, and becoming larger each year.



2019 - Trees #1 and #2 in the 100-year old fir Grove (Cici Brown photo)

The trunks of Trees #1 and #2 [south end] taper evenly from the ground to the top. No cavities or other defects in the wood are evident. Tip growth is short, typical of trees of this age. The base of the trees and visible root collars appear sound. Soil quality is good, and there is no decay of structural roots. Trees #1 and #2 have a long life expectancy.

On Tree #12 [north end] there was one apparent recent failure [from high winds in summer of 2018], where a 4" diameter limb 40 feet above the ground broke off. The stub of the limb shows no evident decay or structural weakness at the fracture point.

The removal of the two largest trees [#1 and #2) could have adverse side effects to the remaining trees, which have developed qualities of resisting stress from wind and other conditions. Newly exposed trees that were previously shielded could have unanticipated breakage and tree failure.

(d) Tree Sizes: (Height estimates and diameters for Trees #1 and #2 are from arborist Michael Oxman; diameters for Trees #3 - #12 are by Bryan Holley)

Tree #1	120-130 ft. tall,	53" dbh (south end of the Grove, dominant tree)
Tree #2	120-130 ft. tall,	46" dbh
Tree #3	110 -125 ft. tall,	33" dbh
Tree #4	110 -125 ft. Tall,	28" dbh
Tree #5	110 -125 ft. Tall,	30" dbh

Tree #6	110 -125 ft. Tall,	37" dbh
Tree #7	110 -125 ft. Tall,	28" dbh
Tree #8	110 -125 ft. Tall,	39" dbh
Tree #9	110 -125 ft. Tall,	30" dbh
Tree #10	110 -125 ft. Tall,	33" dbh
Tree #11	110 -125 ft. Tall,	33" dbh
Tree #12	110 -125 ft. Tall,	50" dbh (north end of the Grove, 2 nd largest tree)

(e) Unique Qualities:

Large Size: The row of 12 tall, large-diameter fir trees is relatively rare in Lithia Park. There is no other similar, single-species fir grove.

Tons of Carbon Being Captured: The 12 firs are steadily contributing to the City's goal of capturing and storing carbon, as described in Ashland's *Climate and Energy Action Plan*. This Plan's "Natural Systems Goal 1" is to "manage forests to retain biodiversity and resilience, as well as ecosystem functions and services, in the face of climate change" [and] "manage ecosystem health, community safety, and carbon storage." According to a carbon calculator from the U.S. Forest Service <https://www.fs.usda.gov/ccrc/tools/tree-carbon-calculator-ctcc>, the estimated (average) total carbon captured by each tree is 11 tons in 100 years.

Valuable Asset for Two National Designations: Lithia Park's tall tree canopy, including the 12 Douglas firs, is a nationally recognized asset that contributed to two designations. In 1982 Lithia Park was added to the *National Register of Historic Places*. In 2014 Lithia Park was named one of *10 Great Public Spaces in America* by the American Planning Association.

State Tree: The Douglas fir is Oregon's State Tree (declared in 1939). The tree was named after famed Scottish botanist David Douglas, who traveled throughout Oregon in the 1820s. The majority of Oregon's license plates proudly display a Douglas fir. Oregonians love their State Tree.

Social Values: The three masts on the restored "Old Ironsides" ship (the USS Constitution) are made from Douglas firs. Stuart Roosa, an Oregon Smokejumper and Apollo 14 astronaut, carried Douglas fir seeds to the moon, which were planted throughout the U.S. upon his return. The Douglas fir is recognizable throughout the United States as the most frequently planted Christmas tree.

END of APPLICATION

HISTORIC MARKERS MASTER PLAN

2013, 2019

City of Ashland

Historic and Public Arts Commissions

HISTORIC MARKERS

- Collaboration:
 - Historic Commission
 - Public Arts Commission
- Parks Department



OREGON HERITAGE COMMISSION

- cultural heritage travelers to Oregon spend nearly 60% more per person than nationally
 - “places, people, activities and things that authentically represent the past and present”
- contributed \$19.6 billion to our economy (2013)
- important to capture past sense of place
- weave this iconic place into present and future



DISTRICT HUBS AND SPOKES

- Downtown
- Railroad District
- Siskiyou-Hargadine
- Skidmore Academy

HUBS AND SPOKES



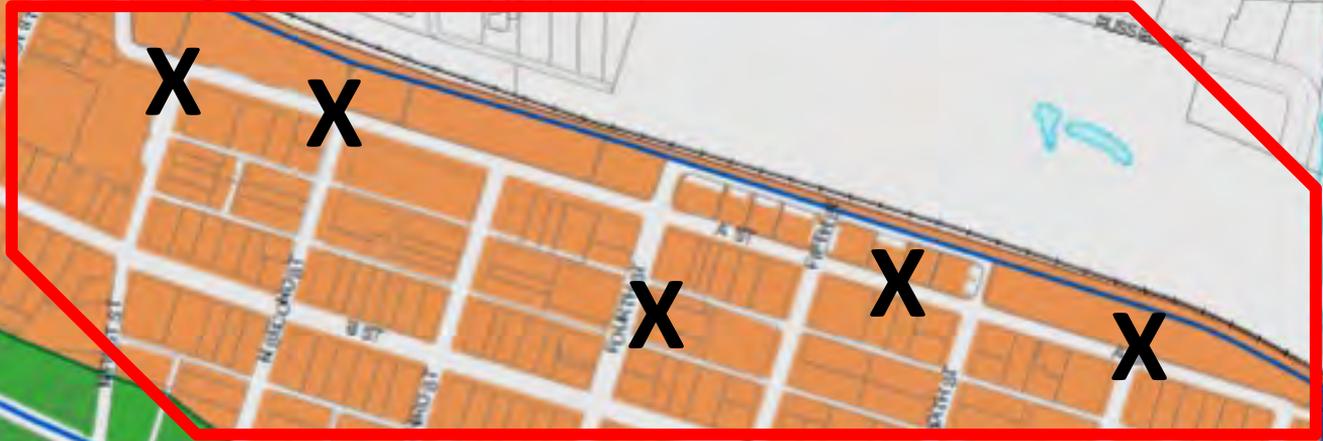
- Hub at each of the 4 historic districts
 - contemporary, site-specific sculpture, based on historic theme
- Spokes off each Hub
 - artistic marker plaques
- City website connection to each set
 - maps, historic narratives, photos
 - brochure

PROPOSED RAILROAD DISTRICT SPOKES

- Railroad Park
- Depot Building
- Haskin's Garage
- Chinatown
- Natatorium (Twin Plunges)



RAILROAD DISTRICT SITES



Phase One: plaques

★ FIRE

Ashtabula Cemetery

RAILROAD DISTRICT WEST



Ashland Food Co-op

Natorium

Chinatown

N 2nd St

RAILROAD DISTRICT CENTER



Depot and Hotel

X

Haskins Garage

X

RAILROAD DISTRICT EAST



MEDALLIONS AND PLAQUES



Philadelphia Chinatown



Philadelphia Chinatown



Portland Chinatown



Cherry

PRUNUS SP.

Merchant
Hotel

The Merchant Hotel was
a miniature Japantown
beginning with children
starting a doctor and the Tokko
by the Matsushima family. After Pearl
Harbor in 1941 Japanese families like the
Matsushimas had only weeks to sell our
camps as "enemy aliens."
Many lost everything.

Yell
Matsushima



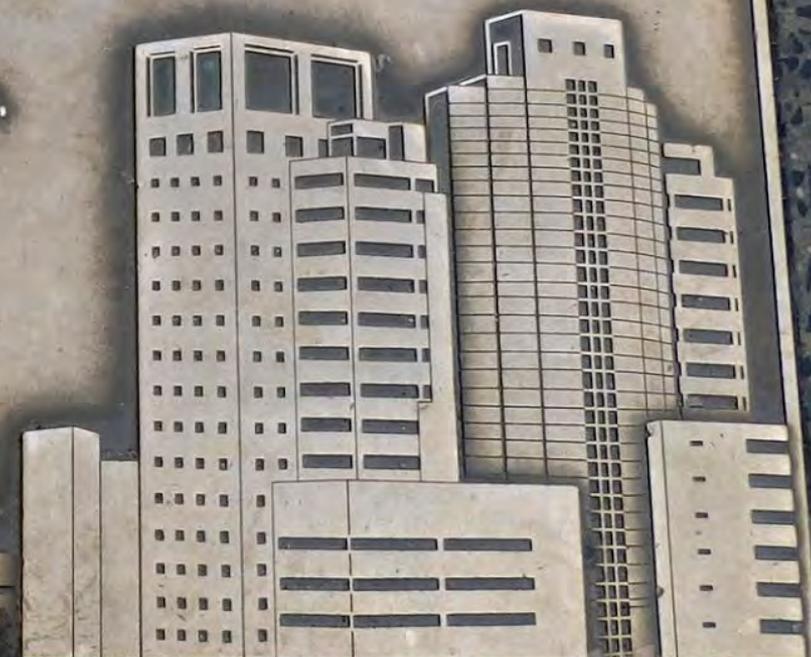
NYC Library Walk

At the end of an hour we saw a far-away town sleeping
in a valley by a winding river; and beyond it on a hill,
a vast gray fortress, with towers and turrets, the first I
had ever seen out of a picture.

"Bridgeport?" said I, pointing.

"Camelot," said he.

- Mark Twain (1835 - 1910),
A Connecticut Yankee
in King Arthur's Court



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info@bigapplesecrets.com

NYC Library Walk

The knowledge of different literatures
frees one from the tyranny of a few...

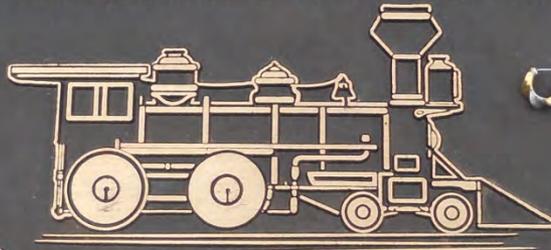
- José Martí (1853-1895), "On Oscar Wilde"



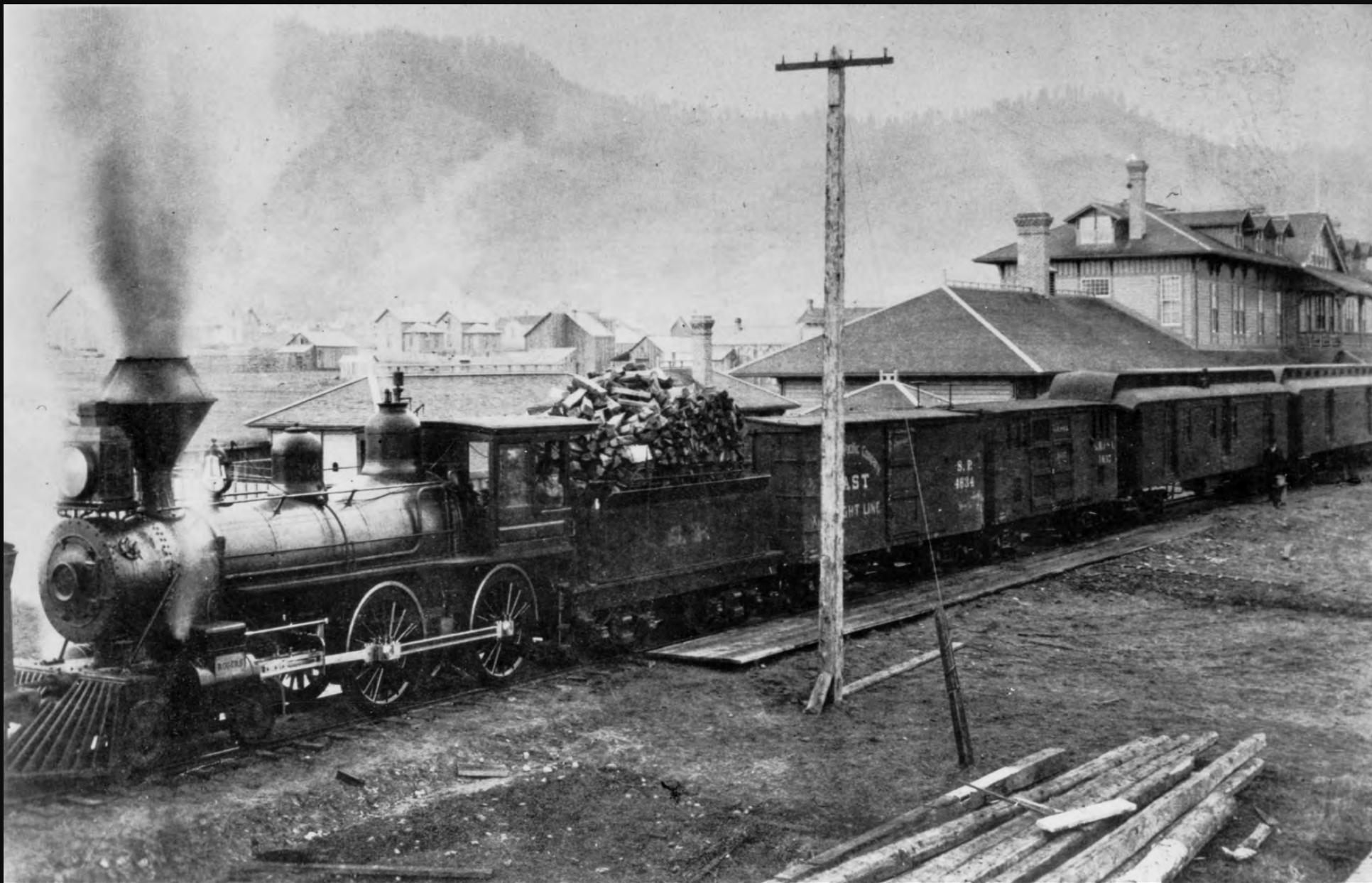
Ashland, OR

CALIFORNIA & OREGON
LINKED AT LAST

AT THIS LOCATION ON
DECEMBER 17, 1887 AT 5:04PM THE
GOLDEN SPIKE WAS SYMBOLICALLY DRIVEN BY
CHARLES CROCKER OF THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC
RAILROAD. THIS FINAL CONNECTION COMPLETED
FREIGHT AND PASSENGER SERVICE AROUND THE NATION.



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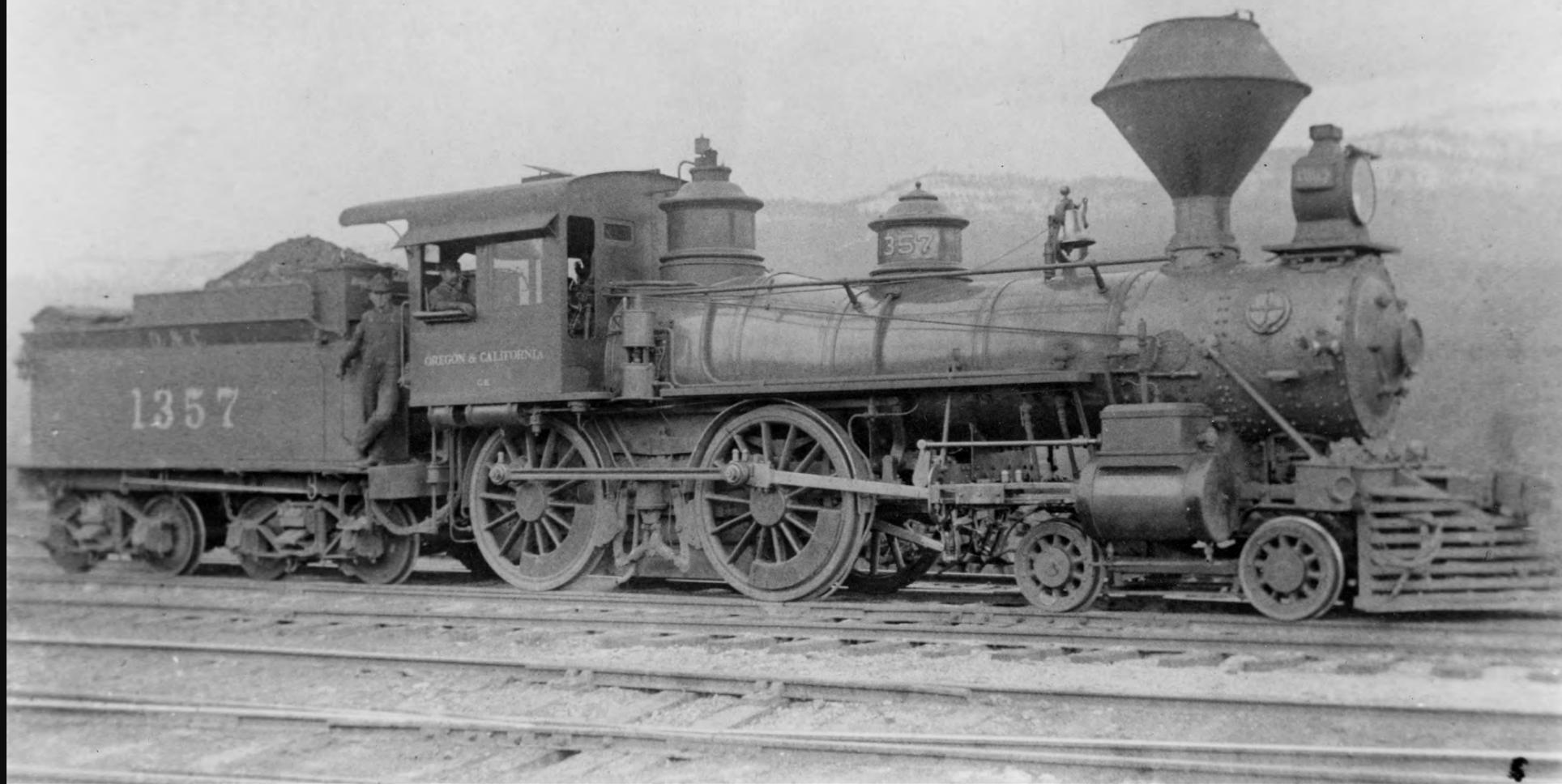


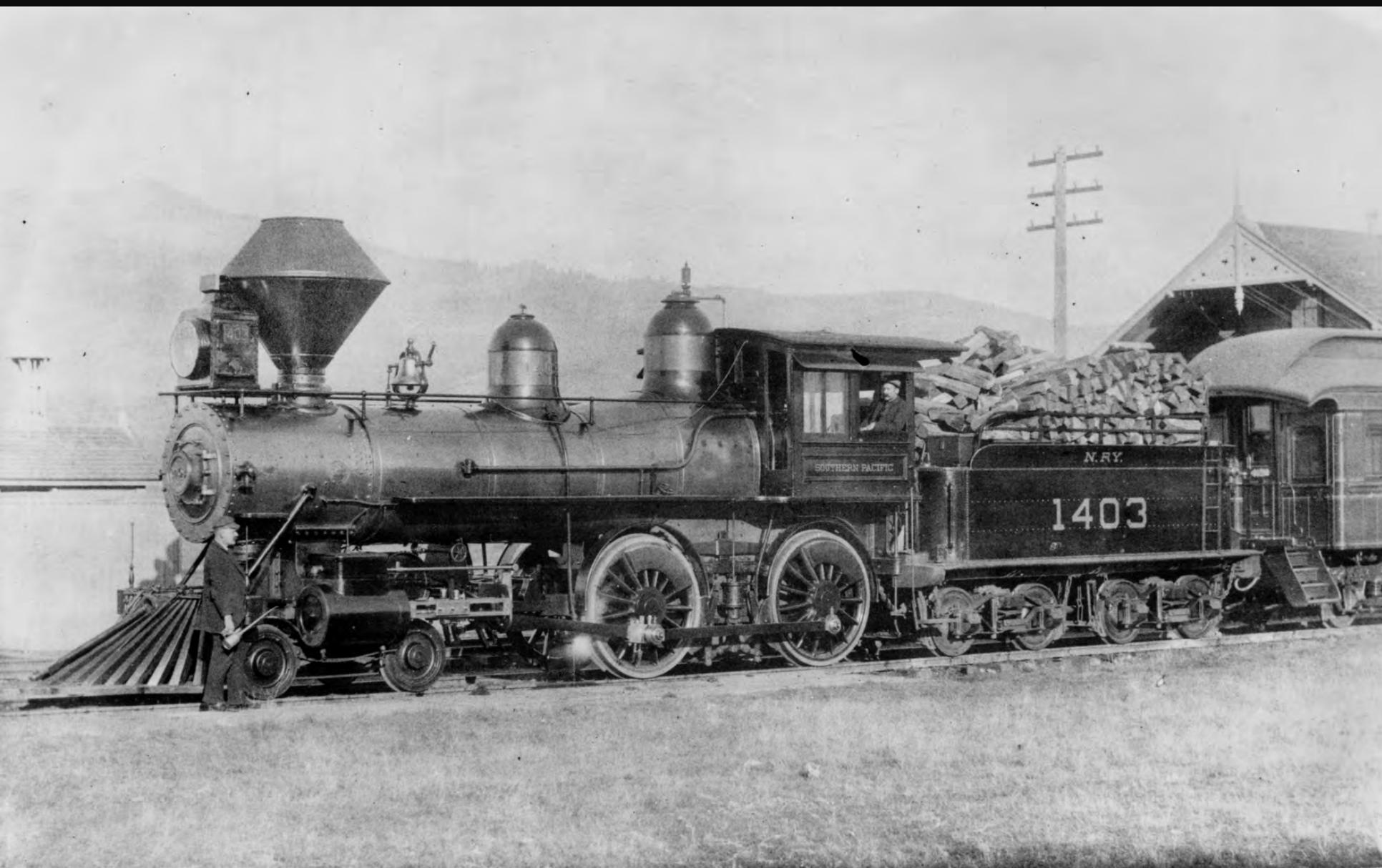






Birch Fountains at S.P. Depot
Ashland Oregon.







© 626

Our Boys are on the way
to get the Kaiser



ashland



1085 — SOUTHERN PACIFIC DEPOT, ASTORIA, OREGON.





















ASHLAND
FOOD CENTER

RAILROAD DISTRICT HUB



Planted area is roughly 36 by 24 feet



Railroad Park Sculpture Examples

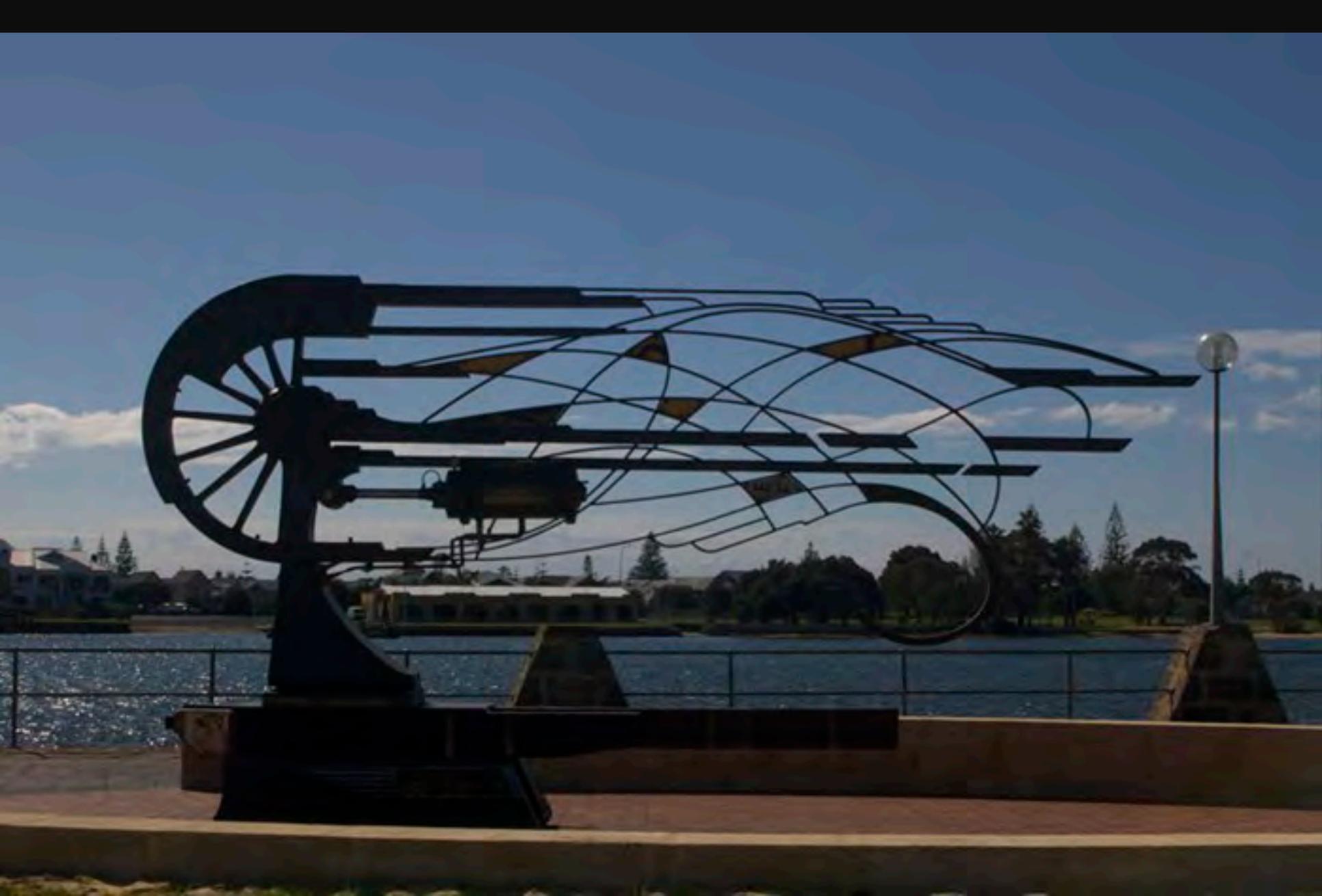


Australia



Underground Railroad, Oberlin, OH





Australia





Britt Bunkley, Wanganui, New Zealand, *Hear My Train a'Comin'*



David Mach, location unknown, England?



Palestine Texas Railroad Park



Open Mind, Fire Station #2

Attachment III

Railroad District Markers --- RFQ text draft

Peter Finkle

Draft #3, 3/13/2019

Title: Ashland Train Station & Roundhouse

Location of marker: Railroad Park (with focus on the impact of the coming of the railroad on Ashland)

Short narrative: Completion of the railroad in the 1880s changed Ashland from an isolated community to a commercial and cultural hub for Southern Oregon. [138 characters, including spaces]

History of site:

*Founded in 1852, Ashland was isolated due to transportation limitations (basically stagecoach, wagon or walking) until the coming of the railroad in the 1880's.

*Ashland's railroad connection north to Portland (in 1884) and south to San Francisco (in 1887) led to a boom in local population, agriculture and industry.

*On December 17, 1887, very near this spot, Southern Pacific (SP) railroad's Vice President Charles Crocker used a silver hammer to drive a "Golden Spike" celebrating the completion of railroads around the entire circumference of the United States. You will find a plaque here in Railroad Park commemorating the Golden Spike.

*With its location just north of the imposing Siskiyou Mountains, Ashland became a division point for SP, with railroad maintenance and repair yards and many railroad employees. Near this spot was a train engine turntable to change the direction the engine would travel. The turntable was in front of the roundhouse, a huge curved maintenance shed that held ten train engines or cars.

*Ashland was also a meal stop for passengers, which introduced thousands of people to Ashland each week. Ashland business people marketed to the passengers with a booth showcasing local agricultural and manufactured products.

*The depot had a gazebo extolling the virtues of and featuring samples of Lithia water. It was slightly larger than the existing Lithia water gazebo in Lithia Park.

*SP bought land from Lindsay Applegate and created the Railroad District. It was filled with boarding houses and small homes for railroad workers. New commercial streets were created on A Street and 4th Street to rival the "old" downtown Plaza and Main Street commercial areas.

*From 1887 until 1927, up to five trains each way stopped daily in Ashland.

*In 1927, SP rerouted long-distance trains away from Ashland to Klamath Falls and moved most of their railroad workers out of Ashland. The Railroad District went into a slump for decades.

Title: Ashland Depot Hotel Kitchen

Location of marker: historic depot building at 5th & A Streets (with focus on the Ashland Depot Hotel exterior and dining room)

Short narrative: This building was the kitchen for the spacious Depot Hotel dining room, where 200 train passengers could eat all at once during a 30-minute stop. [144 characters, including spaces]

History of site:

*The huge Depot Hotel, with 40 sleeping rooms, opened in 1888. Since most passenger trains had only a 30-minute stop in Ashland, its spacious dining room was able to seat and feed 200 people all at once.

*The Ashland Depot building you see here was all that was left after the hotel was torn down in 1937. It was moved to this spot across the street from its original location in 1990, thanks to the efforts of history-lover and railroad district resident Jim Lewis. To give you an idea of the size of the original hotel, this building was only the kitchen and storage room for the Ashland Depot Hotel restaurant.

*Ashland children, especially young boys, were drawn to the depot like a magnet. First, there were trains and excitement. Perhaps more important, boys would sell backyard fruit in small baskets to train passengers and make some spending money.

Title: 4th Street Fire Station

Location of marker: 264 4th Street

Short narrative: This 1908 building was the second fire station in Ashland. It also held a jail space to deal with hobos who came on the trains. [127 characters, including spaces]

History of site:

*With the coming of the railroad and the expansion of Ashland into the Railroad District, there was a need for a second fire station in addition to the original one downtown.

*The Ashland Hose Company No. 2 station was built in 1908, made of the new construction material called rockfaced hollow concrete block.

*The station was built next to a Livery Stable and Feed Store. Until Ashland citizens approved the purchase of the town's first motorized fire truck in 1913, the volunteer firemen borrowed horses from the Livery Stable next door when needed to pull their hose wagon. If no horses were available, power to pull the wagon shifted from horse-power back to human-power!

*A jail cell was added to the fire station to deal with the Railroad District's drunk and hobo problems. With the trains came the hobos, traveling for free up and down the West Coast, bothering Ashland residents by begging and stealing.

*At times, in order to prevent stealing, police gave hobos the option of a free meal and free lodging in the jail in exchange for a promise to leave town on the next morning's train.

*The old gas pump was installed in 1920, a few years after Ashland bought its first gasoline powered fire truck.

*The building became Haskins Garage in 1945, which was a fixture in the Railroad District for decades until Archie Haskins' death in 1976.

*The building was lovingly restored by new owners Bill Welch and Darlene Beckett in 2008, the 100th anniversary of the historical fire station.

Title: Ashland's Chinatown

Location of marker: the corner of A and 2nd Streets (with focus on Wah Chung's family and the Chinese presence in Ashland)

Short narrative: The Ashland Chinese community was active in railroad work, with only the Wah Chung (Mr. Wong) family fully participating in the wider Ashland community. [152 characters, including spaces]

History of site:

*Ashland's best-known Chinese citizen was Wah Chung. Americans called him Wah Chung after his business name: Wah Chung & Company. His birth name was Wong Quon Sue, or Mr. Wong.

*An estimated 2,000 Chinese laborers helped build the railroad tracks across the Siskiyou Mountains. Only a few dozen seem to have stayed in the Ashland area after railroad construction was completed in December 1887. They maintained the train tracks for Southern Pacific, worked as cooks and waiters at the Ashland Depot Hotel, ran a laundry, provided Chinese medicines for Ashland Chinese and Americans, and more.

*For at least 42 years, Mr. Wong hired, fed and took care of Chinese workers as a labor contractor for Southern Pacific railroad.

*Mr. Wong, his wife and two children lived in a two-story house near the corner of A and 2nd Streets. His two-story Chinese grocery store was next door at 282 A Street. He also owned rental property, a building that held a Chinese laundry, and at one time he ran a restaurant at 82 North Main Street.

*The family grew Chinese green beans (1' to 2 ½' long), Chinese cucumbers and American vegetables in their garden, and also had a pond where they raised fish.

*Most local Chinese lived around 2nd Street and A Street, though an 1898 Sanborn map and a 1901 newspaper article both also described a "Chinatown" across the railroad tracks from Mr. Wong's house.

*The Wong family children Jennie and Sammy attended Ashland public schools.

*Mr. Wong seems to have been able to adeptly balance the Chinese and American cultures. Despite strong anti-Chinese sentiment and discrimination in Oregon, he was able to befriend and gain the trust of the powerful families and institutions of Ashland. As leading Ashland businessman Henry Enders said: "Wah Chung was a perfect gentleman...everybody trusted him." Mr. Wong and his wife mixed socially with wealthy business people in town, and he did things like drive his patriotically decorated car in Ashland 4th of July parades.

*The Chinese New Year was a big event for the town of Ashland. With food and fireworks, the annual celebration centered around Mr. Wong's store and home.

*Connection with China: Mr. Wong was born in Chun Lock Village in China's coastal Taishan county, Guangdong province. Chelsea Rose, staff archeologist at SOULA (Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology) has learned that not only Mr. Wong (Wah Chung), but also most of Ashland's Chinese residents in the late 1800's and early 1900's, were from this same village cluster in China.

Title: Natatorium and Twin Plunges

Location of marker: the corner of A and 1st Streets

Short narrative: The Natatorium and Twin Plunges provided recreation, exercise and a gathering place for generations of Ashlanders. [114 characters, including spaces]

History of site:

*The Natatorium, opened in 1909, was a massive swimming and recreation center for the people of Ashland. The huge 100' by 200' building contained two pools fed by mineral hot springs at the site, one for men and one for women.

*The Natatorium was intended to become a community recreation center. In addition to the two pools, it had a maple wood floor covering the water storage tank that served as a dance hall and skating rink. There was a balcony surrounding the pools had seating for 500 people to watch and socialize.

*The Natatorium was one of three places in Ashland people could "take the waters," which may be why it closed in 1919. Jackson Hot Springs just north of town had been founded in 1862 (and is still going strong as Jackson Wellsprings) and the Helman Baths was opened in 1886 (and operated until 1956).

*The huge Natatorium building was torn down in the late 1920's. However, the two pools remained, waiting for a new life.

*In 1931 William Briggs, an attorney in Ashland, bought the property from the county for the bargain price of \$500. He resurfaced the pools, built bath houses, and opened Twin Plunges (named for the two pools) on June 26, 1931.

*The last owners of Twin Plunges were Al and Edith Willstatter, who bought the property in 1966. They tried to make it a place for everyone in the community. In addition to summer recreation, the Willstatter's "pioneered programs in swimming for the handicapped, Mother-and-Child Learn to Swim Sessions, scuba and skin diving, water exercise classes and even a kayak training grounds."

*Twin Plunges finally closed in 1977.