

INTRODUCTION



A historic context statement is a document used for strategic planning of a community's historic resources. It describes the broad patterns of historic growth and development of the community and helps to ascertain the historical themes, events, and associated individuals that have played an important role in that development. A context statement also helps to identify historic resource types, such as structures, sites, objects, and districts, that represent these patterns of development. It also helps determine the potential distribution of these resources. Just as importantly, the document provides guidance for evaluating and protecting significant historic resources. It is intended to be a dynamic document, evolving over time as community needs and desires change.

Eugene's Historic River Road is a context statement written in 2005 by Bernadette Niederer, Caitlin Harvey, Sally Wright and David Pinyerd of Historic Preservation Northwest, a local historic preservation consulting firm. The historic context is a geographically-oriented study that covers Eugene's River Road neighborhood. It is intended to assist in the preparation of city and county policies pertaining to the identification and protection of historic resources in the area.



Hop barn in the River Road area. Demolished. Photo courtesy of Lane County Historical Museum (GN2053)

The National Park Service developed context-based planning as a means of organizing activities for preserving historic resources. Such planning is based on the following four principles:

1. Significant historic properties are unique and irreplaceable.
2. Preservation must often go forward without complete information.
3. History belongs to everyone.
4. Planning can be applied at any scale.

This project was financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, a division of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and was administered by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. All work was completed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

Historic Context Definitions

Determining what is to be studied is an important first step in understanding a historic context and helps keep the research focused. The three elements used to determine the parameters of a historic context are theme, time, and place.

Theme

The theme of the context statement identifies what is to be studied. This can vary in scale from an entire community to a significant historic trend, such as the college fraternal movement, or to a single resource type, such as schools. This context is a geographically-based study, as it covers the River Road neighborhood. Significant activities, events and people are discussed within the context sub-themes of Transportation, Agriculture, Residential Development, Commerce and Industry, Government, Education, Culture, Religion, and Recreation.

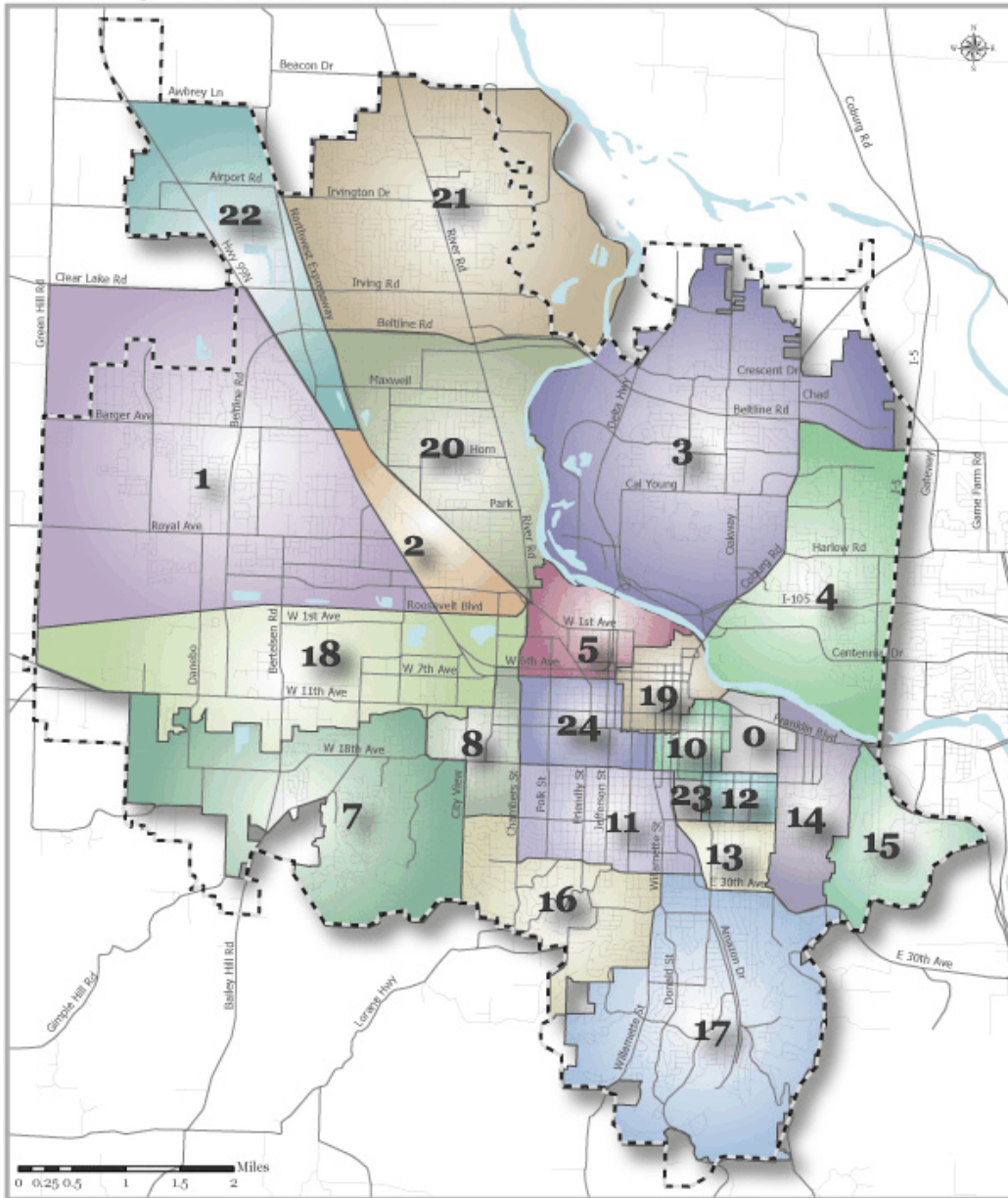
Time

The time boundary of a historic context establishes the dates that bracket the period of study. In this context, we are documenting and evaluating the period of Euro-American settlement, basically the 1850s through the 1970s.

Place

The place or spatial boundary of a context statement describes its geographic limits. Determining a reasonable area of study keeps the research manageable, yet the boundary should not be chosen arbitrarily. The boundaries of this study encompass the River Road neighborhood, labeled "20" on the map on the next page. The boundaries are formed basically by Beltline Road to the north, the Willamette River to the east, Thomason Lane to the south, and the Northwest Expressway to the west.

City of Eugene Neighborhood Associations



City of Eugene Urban Growth Boundary

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 0 University of Oregon Campus | 5 Whiteaker Community Council | 13 Amazon Neighbors | 19 Downtown Neighborhood Association |
| 1 Active Bethel Citizens | 7 Churchill Area Neighbors | 14 Fairmount Neighbors | 20 River Road Community Organization |
| 2 Trainsong Neighbors | 8 Far West Neighborhood | 15 Laurel Hill Valley Citizens Association | 21 Santa Clara Community Organization |
| 3 Cal Young Neighborhood | 10 West University Neighbors | 16 Crest Drive Citizens Association | 22 Industrial Corridor Community Organization |
| 4 Harlow Neighbors | 11 Friendly Area Neighbors | 17 Southeast Neighbors | 23 South Eugene High School |
| | 12 South University Neighborhood | 18 West Eugene Community Organization | 24 Jefferson Westside Neighbors |

City of Eugene
Planning and Development
April 7, 2004