



## EVALUATION OF RESOURCES

Evaluation is the process of determining the significance of a resource, and is based on architectural, historical, and/or cultural merit. Once the integrity and significance has been established, the resource is ranked according to its eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or as a City of Eugene Historic Landmark. The evaluation criteria used are those set forth by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service.

### Significance

The National Register criteria require that a historic resource be at least 50 years of age and possess significance in at least one of the following areas to be considered potentially eligible for listing on the National Register:

1. **Event/Pattern of History:** The resource is associated with an event and/or pattern of events or historic trend that has made a significant contribution to the history of the community, the region, the state, or the nation; or
2. **Person(s):** The person(s) associated with the resource is (are) individually significant and made demonstrated contributions to the history of the community, the region, the state, or the nation; and the resource is associated with the person(s)'s productive life, reflecting the time period in which he or she achieved significance; or
3. **Design/Construction:** The resource embodies distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; and/or the resource represents the work of a master; and/or the resource possesses high artistic value; or it represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
4. **Information Potential:** The resource has either yielded information or is likely to yield information that is important to history or prehistory.

Exceptions to the over-50 rule are made for those resources that are especially strong in one or more of the first three categories. For example, Timberline Lodge was listed in the National Register prior to its 50th birthday. This is particularly relevant for Eugene's modern resources that have not reached 50 years of age, but are strong in one or more criteria.

## Integrity and Condition

Integrity is the authenticity of a resource's historic identity. It refers to the intactness of historic form and original construction materials. As such, integrity is integral to the resource's ability to convey its significance. Alterations, either historic or contemporary, should be examined for compatibility. Condition of a historic resource should not be confused with integrity. Condition is generally defined as "state of repair." A resource can be in poor condition, but retain a high degree of historic integrity.

There must be identifiable evidence in all or some of the following aspects of integrity for a historic resource to be considered eligible for the National Register or as a City of Eugene Historic Landmark. Some aspects are more important than others in conveying significance, and these should be determined on an individual basis.

The seven aspects of integrity are:

**Location:** Is the resource in its original location or has it been moved?

**Design:** Is the original design intact?

**Setting:** Has the character of the setting stayed the same or changed over time?

**Materials:** What portion of the original materials is retained?

**Workmanship:** Does the resource show craftsmanship of the period?

**Feeling:** Does the resource evoke an aesthetic or historic sense of the past?

**Association:** Is this the site of an historic event or activity, or is the site associated with an important person historically?

## Ranking

After significance and integrity are assessed, resources are ranked according to their historic contribution either individually or as part of a potential district. A cultural resource survey uses the rankings designed by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in 2000 for future survey work throughout the state. Resources are evaluated on an individual basis and are determined to be either Potentially Eligible for listing (either on their own or in a district) or Not Eligible for listing. A resource will be ranked Not Eligible if it lacks distinction, is substantially altered, or has not yet reached 50 years of age.

Resources being considered for inclusion in a district are evaluated according to the period of historic significance and are given one of these rankings:

1. **Historic/Contributing** for resources constructed during the historic period that retain and exhibit sufficient integrity to convey a sense of history.
2. **Historic/Non-Contributing** resources were constructed during the historic period but that have undergone such alterations that they no longer retain sufficient integrity to convey a sense of history.
3. **Non-Historic/Non-Contributing** resources were constructed outside the period of significance.

Historic resources may shift from one ranking category to another over time. A Historic/Contributing property may be severely altered, resulting in a non-contributing status. Conversely, a Historic/Non-Contributing resource may be restored, with its newfound integrity and condition warranting a Contributing status. Also, as time passes, additional resources will reach 50 years of age and begin to contribute to the community's history. For all these reasons, it is important that historic resource inventories be completed and updated over time.