

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY**

In the Matter of Amending the Comprehensive Framework Plan to include Bridal Veil in the County Inventory of Historic Resources)	ORDER
	C 9-92
	92-247

WHEREAS, Multnomah County is required by Statewide Planning Goal 5 to inventory its historic resources and include significant sites in the Comprehensive Plan Inventory; and

WHEREAS, Comprehensive Plan Policy 16-I states that significant historic resources should be recognized and appropriate preservation measures applied; and

WHEREAS, Bridal Veil complies with the majority of the Historic Site Criteria contained within the Comprehensive Framework Plan; and

WHEREAS, The Goal 5 process must be completed for significant sites by identifying conflicting uses and the economic, social, environmental and energy consequences of allowing those uses, leading to a protection plan based on the results to provide full, partial or no protection of the resource; and

WHEREAS, There are various state and federal agencies and private parties with an interest in Bridal Veil who could assist in the Goal 5 process as part of a Task Force; and

WHEREAS, The Planning Commission recommended that the Multnomah County Board of County Commissioners amend the Comprehensive Framework Plan to include Bridal Veil in the inventory of Historic Resources.

NOW, THEREFORE the Board of Commissioners Orders in accordance with MCC 11.05.320, and upon recommendation of the Planning Commission, the Supplemental Findings section of the Comprehensive Framework Plan is amended to include Bridal Veil in the inventory of significant historic resources.



Adopted this ^{29th} ~~27th~~ day of December, 1992

By Gladys McCoy
Gladys McCoy, County Chair
Multnomah County Board of Commissioners

REVIEWED:

Peter Livingston

FOR John DuBay, Deputy County Counsel
of Multnomah County, Oregon



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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
C 9-92 DECISION

FINDINGS:

COMPLIANCE WITH GOAL 5 CRITERIA:

Location: Bridal Veil town and mill area, bordered on the west by Bridal Veil Creek, on the east by the eastern edge of the cemetery, on the north by the railroad tracks, and on the south by Crown Point Highway; described as Lots 7-10 and 12-15 of the First Addition to Bridal Veil; tax lots '2' and '3'; the portion of tax lot '11' lying north of the Crown Point Highway; tax lot '19'; the portion of tax lot '18' lying east of and including Bridal Veil Creek, plus a portion of the railroad right-of-way between the I-84 interchange and Bridal Veil Creek, all in Section 22, T1N, R5E (see attached map). This encompasses the original townsite and mill area, the cemetery, and all existing buildings.

Quantity - Bridal Veil is the only mill town remaining in Multnomah County, which increases its significance.

Quality - Bridal Veil operated continuously as a mill town for 100 years, and is one of the earliest established mill towns in the state. There is no modern infill development to detract from the historic setting other than the church and the remodeled mill buildings. The layout of the town is as originally established, with manager's houses on the hillside above the smaller worker's houses located in rows down the hill. While most of the individual houses have been altered and updated over time, structurally they remain very similar to when built.

COMPLIANCE WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN HISTORICAL SITE CRITERIA:

- A. Historic Significance - The logging and wood processing industries played a major role in Multnomah County's development. Persons of historic significance to Multnomah County were associated with the town. The State Historic Preservation Office has identified the timber and fishing industries as the broad themes most urgently requiring cultural resource context studies. Bridal Veil was a mill town associated with the timber industry and logging in the Columbia Gorge. It also evokes the theme of transportation because of its association with shipping of products first on the Columbia River, then by

rail, and the development of the Columbia River Highway which opened the Gorge to early (and continued) tourism. In a social context the layout of the manager's houses above the small worker's houses illustrates and evokes the social and economic stratification of the controlling lumber company.

- B. Architectural Significance - (Rarity of Type and/or Style). When the town is considered as a whole, it is a good example of a mill town, showing the social arrangement of manager's houses on the hill with views of the Columbia River, and the worker's houses in rows lower down the slopes and closer to the railroad tracks. No important architect, builder, or engineer was associated with the design or construction of the houses. The houses do not represent a stylistic or structural type other than basic vernacular. Although there were several mill towns associated with the timber and fishing industries in Multnomah County at the turn of the century, Bridal Veil is the last remaining example.
- C. Environmental Considerations - Bridal Veil exhibits little non-historic infill within the townsite area and within the surrounding area. The houses, which date from between 1902-1913, have received some alteration and modernization over the years. The church is not historic, all other community buildings are gone, the mill buildings are from a more recent date and there is no sawmill equipment or machinery left to indicate the historic use.
- D. Physical Integrity - The houses and some of the other structures and mill area are in the same locations as originally constructed. This physical layout is important in recognizing the social hierarchy exhibited in the two housing types (manager vs. worker). Although there has been some alteration to exterior and interior features on many of the houses and some of the other structures, there may be enough original material and workmanship remaining to interpret their original appearance as well as to make restoration possible.
- E. Symbolic Value - Bridal Veil has a great deal of symbolic value as evidenced by public testimony received during the public hearing process. It is unique to Multnomah County, and much public sentiment has been shown for its preservation. The town connotes an earlier period in county history when small settlements were established to process timber and other natural resources. The townsite is symbolic of early logging practices in the Columbia Gorge and the positive and negative aspects thereof. The fact that Bridal Veil diversified the type of wood products produced and continued to operate as a mill town even during the depression and both World Wars lends additional sentiment and testimony to its long history which many area residents do not want to see destroyed.
- F. Chronology - Bridal Veil was established in the 1880's. While several mill towns were established in the county earlier than this, they no longer exist. On a state comparison level, Bridal Veil is the earliest remaining example of a timber related company mill town.

COMPLIANCE WITH PLAN REVISION CRITERIA:

- (1) DLCD notification procedures - ORS 197.610 - .625 deals with giving 45 day notice to DLCD of a proposed plan amendment, sending a copy of the amended text and adopted findings within 5 days of the final decision, the right of appeal, and final acknowledgement 21 days after the final decision if unappealed. These procedures are being followed. ORS 197.732 deals with Goal exceptions, not applicable to this proposal.
- (2) Conformance with Comprehensive Plan policies, or Plan policies do not apply - Comprehensive Plan Policy 16: *"The purpose of the Natural Resources policy is to implement statewide Planning Goal 5: 'Open Spaces, Scenic and Historic Areas, and Natural Resources'. These resources are necessary to ensure the health and well-being of the population, and include such diverse components as mineral and aggregate reserves, significant wetlands, historic sites, and scenic waterways"*. Sub-policy 16-I: *"It is the county's policy to recognize significant historic resources, and to apply appropriate historic preservation measures to all designated historic sites"*. Bridal Veil complies with the Historic Site Criteria. Amending the Comprehensive Plan will recognize the site's historic significance. Protection is provided to resources included in the inventory through MCC 11.15.8720, which requires design review prior to any alteration of an historic structure and a public hearing process prior to removal or demolition of the structure. Further site specific protection may be proposed based on the results of the ESEE analysis.
- (3) Changed uses will: 1) not destabilize the land use pattern in the vicinity, 2) not conflict with existing or planned uses on adjacent lands, and 3) that necessary public services are or will be available to serve allowed uses - Amending the Comprehensive Plan to include Bridal Veil on the inventory of significant historic resources will not cause a change in allowed uses. Thus there will be no destabilization of the local land use pattern or conflicts with adjacent land uses, and no need for additional public services. Completion of the ESEE analysis may lead to development of a protection plan requiring adoption of a Historic Preservation overlay zone, which could change the allowed uses. This would require additional public hearings, and any effects to adjacent properties or land uses would be discussed at that time.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. Bridal Veil is the only mill town remaining in Multnomah County, and the oldest in the state. It operated continuously for 100 years.
2. Bridal Veil is associated with the historic theme of the timber industry, which was an important factor in the development of the county and state.

3. The physical layout of the town and buildings are as originally constructed in the late 1800's and early 1900's, and reflect the social and economic hierarchy of the workers and managers.
4. The houses may retain enough original materials and structure to understand their original appearance and make restoration possible.
5. Public interest and sentiment support the preservation of Bridal Veil as an historic mill town site.
6. Bridal Veil complies with the majority of the Historical Site Criteria found in the Comprehensive Framework Plan. The Comprehensive Plan should be amended to include Bridal Veil in the inventory of significant historic resources.
7. The remainder of the Goal 5 process, including identification of conflicting uses, ESEE analysis, and resulting proposal for appropriate level of protection should be finished, and reported back to the Planning Commission for decision at their regular April 5, 1993 meeting. A Task Force should be formed to assist in this process.