

https://www.bendbulletin.com/localstate/la-pine-s-history-documented/article_2747feae-88ba-55fe-9651-4e00a81a24d7.html

La Pine's history – documented

Historic planner inventories hundreds of buildings

Erin Golden / The Bulletin
Nov 14, 2008

1 of 2



Volunteer Cherrie Schwartz, left, and historic planner Pat Kliewer look at maps and files Tuesday morning while entering data about historic buildings on a laptop computer. Kliewer is overseeing a historic inventory of La Pine's buildings.



For the last few days, Pat Kliewer has been driving the streets of La Pine, armed with a camera, printouts of property records and a large aerial photograph of the city.

Kliewer, a historic planner, stops at each building or structure that's at least 45 years old and does a quick visual survey, takes photos and writes down a few notes. Then she adds the information to a growing collection of files — a catalogue of notes, records,

photos and newspaper clippings that will later be organized with the help of volunteers and perhaps one day uploaded to the Web.

By the end of the month, Kliewer estimates she will have inventoried about 275 structures within the La Pine city limits.

The inventory is the first comprehensive historic survey that's been done in La Pine since the mid-1980s, decades before the city was incorporated. City Manager Christine Nelson said officials will use the information as part of La Pine's comprehensive planning process and as a way to help the new city solidify an identity by looking to the past.

"The information will be provided to the city by the planning consultants," she said. "We will take the information, develop goals and policies, and ultimately, there could be a historic preservation ordinance ... We're hoping that by finding what's out there, hopefully the community will choose to protect certain important sites."

Kliewer, who formerly worked as a historic and cultural planner with the city of Bend, is serving as a consultant on the inventory. She said the work will cost about \$8,000 and is funded with a grant from the National Park Service distributed through the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

Though La Pine has no structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Kliewer said the city is full of buildings that have long and often storied histories. Part of the challenge of the inventory work, she said, is matching up the existing property records, photos and other documents with the oral history that's been passed down by longtime residents.

Kliewer said many of the buildings in La Pine were built as recreational cabins by visitors but were moved and remodeled to serve other purposes. Chat

“What seems to be a unique feature, a prevalent feature in La Pine, is moved buildings,” she said. “And we’ve already seen that there’s a huge focus on recreation, and that focus is going to be consistent through every decade. People often came in the 1910s and 1920s because of great fishing and hunting, and that they’re still doing that today.”

Last weekend, Kliewer invited residents to bring in information and share memories of the city’s historic buildings at an open house. Among the half-dozen people who turned up for the event was Leon Shields, a fifth-generation La Pine resident with an impressive knowledge of local people, places and events.

Shields, 59, said he’s interested in the inventory project because he’s worried that valuable information about the community will be lost when older residents pass away. Shields said he hopes the work gets more people interested in maintaining the city’s historic structures.

“It would be nice to see some of the buildings preserved,” he said. “The problem is most of them are wood buildings, and a lot of those old buildings never had foundations or anything, so how that’s going to work, I don’t know.”

Kliewer said she hopes residents like Shields with a big interest in local history will stay involved in the inventory process after she completes her on-the-ground work in the next couple of weeks. Once that’s done, Kliewer and her team will have to spend hours matching up the photos and information about the structures with old property and census records and other documents, and compiling them into one large archive. She said that process could continue for a year.

Nelson said the information will be a valuable resource for the city’s comprehensive planning process, as planners map out where and how the city can grow in the future. She said the inventory won’t result in any immediate code changes, but ~~the~~ ^{that} the city could

use the information if it decides in the future to work with property owners to protect particular buildings.

In the meantime, Kliewer said the up-to-date record of the city's historic buildings should provide help to residents looking to define or explain what makes Central Oregon's newest city different from others in the region.

“The feeling that I got from (city officials), the information I got from them, and on Saturday with the participants, is that La Pine is trying at this point to create an identity,” Kliewer said. “They're trying to say, ‘This is what differentiates La Pine from Sunriver or Bend or Terrebonne. This is what is special or unique about our city.’”

How to help

To volunteer or provide information for the historic inventory project, contact the city of La Pine at 541-536-1432 or Pat Kliewer at pkliewer@hotmail.com.

Chat