

Historical designations may grow

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald

There may be nearly 60 designated historical sites in and around Eugene, but there are more places that could be historic, says Judy Rees of the city's Housing and Community Conservation Department.

Unfortunately, most of those might not become designated landmarks without a fight.



According to Rees, a member of the city's Historic Review Board, there are "tons" of houses, buildings and parcels of property that could be designated historic

sites, but most owners don't want that distinction.

"There are a lot of people out there who feel that their land is theirs and they can do what they want with it," Rees says. There are even more who don't like the historic designation as much as they don't like the city's zoning laws.

Last week, Rees and the Historic Review Board sponsored programs, tours and films in conjunction with National Historic Preservation Week to emphasize the importance of preserving those parts of the city and county that are considered historic.

Right now there are 57 designated historic sites inside the city limits. Those include the downtown Palace Hotel, built just one year before the automobile reached Eugene; the Smeede Hotel, the oldest surviving brick masonry hotel in the county and stopping point of presidential candidate William Jennings Bryant during the late 1800s; the Oregon-Electric Depot, now a restaurant; and the Soult-Westfall duplex, now a plant shop on Pearl Street.

The University's Deady and Villard Halls, also part of the week-long program, were officially designated national buildings constructed on the University campus. Deady and Villard Halls were placed in the city's historic register



Photos by Patrick Sullivan

The Indoor Garden, a Eugene plant shop on 15th and Pearl, is referred to on the historic register as the Soult-Westfall duplex. Tours were conducted last week through some of one Eugene area's 57 historical sites as a part of National Preservation Week.

six years ago.

Despite these already historic landmarks, there are still several others the Historic Review Board would like to designate, but has met opposition with, Rees says.

One of those caused a minor controversy late last year when owners of cemetery plots in the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) cemetery at 18th Avenue and University Street wanted the land designated a landmark, and the owners of the

cemetery did not, Rees says.

Amid rumors that the cemetery owners wanted to move the graves and develop the land, Rees says a historic zoning would keep the ground intact.

Once a building is designated a historic site the owners cannot alter the structure's exterior or land in any way, she says. The owners would be eligible to receive special benefits from the city in the way of financial and other reliefs, however.

"A lot of people object to our zoning laws now, so they'd probably object to a historic designation even worse," she says.

The incentives to preserve historic places has led to a new awareness about the city's history, Rees says.

"I think people are more aware of what we have here because of our efforts," Rees says. "Eugene, next to Portland, has probably the best preservation program in the state."

Simeral

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She says, "I like to teach, run conferences and write papers for a broader audience. I'm not prepared to say that I do no research."

Bierweg says he "hasn't given much thought" to Simeral's decision. He adds the department hasn't yet decided what to do with her position.

"Most likely we would attempt to replace Simeral with someone who would teach the same courses," he says. "The dean may have other ideas as well."

Simeral is presently the only woman in the economics department.

Asked whether a new specialist of labor economics, if hired, would be a new-classical theorist or not, Bierweg replied, "We don't distinguish between classical or non-classical, they either do their jobs well or not."

But Simeral is not convinced there is no tinge of discrimination within the department.

"The publishing standard ap-

pears to be unequally applied, especially overtime and with respect to sex," she says. "This unevenness in application results in a remarkably homogenous faculty and deprives the University community of the richness of experience, which comes with a multi-faceted faculty pursuing diverse political, social and intellectual interests."

Since receiving the one-year contract last fall, Simeral has organized a conference for labor union women and completed a paper on women and the reserve army of labor.

Simeral says at present, there is no chance she will re-apply for her position.

"I just think it's hopeless," she concludes.

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