

MUSEUMS

History can be found all around you



Kam Wah Chung & Co.

at the John Day City Park

on NW Canton Street
541-575-2800

The ADA-accessible Interpretive Center is open daily and located across the street.

OPEN:

May 1 - Oct. 31, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

ADMISSION:

Free

TOURS:

Guided tours only. Tours start at the top of each hour at the Interpretive Center and last about 45 minutes (last tour at 4 p.m.).

Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site is a must-see for anyone with an interest in Oregon history. Preserving the legacy of the Chinese workforce in Oregon, the museum contains artifacts and displays that share some of the challenges and happenings of everyday life for the Chinese immigrants.

A small, unassuming building dating back to the 1860s, Kam Wah Chung was originally built as a trading post during the early days after the discovery of gold in nearby Canyon Creek. In the 1880s, during the rising popularity of the Chinese immigrants' settlement, it became both home and business for two

men, Ing "Doc" Hay and Lung On, and is now a National Historic Landmark, listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Doc Hay and Lung On became business partners and lifelong friends soon after meeting, offering Kam Wah Chung as a medical clinic with herbal treatments, general store, religious temple and community center for over 50 years. Doc Hay provided effective Eastern medical cures until the late 1940s to locals whose children and grandchildren can still recount the stories.

After the building was donated to the city to use as a tool in interpreting the Chinese history of the area, it was locked up for nearly 20 years before being restored and opened

as a museum.

Now operated by Oregon State Parks, the site includes a museum and interpretive center, and contains an extensive collection of materials from the arrival and settlement of Chinese immigrants in the American West. Chinese herbs and surviving medical texts make Kam Wah Chung a unique resource in the research on herbal remedies and medicinal practices.

Christy Sweet, curator: "I think it is the premiere site in the United States to learn about the Chinese American experience in the West. People seem to be searching for authenticity. Everything at the museum is basically how it was left by Doc Hay and Lung On. It's like stepping back into a little time machine."



551 W. Main, John Day • 541.575.1346

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