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# CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources involve the activities of man on the natural environment. In this section, background studies of the historic aspects of Tangent will be reviewed.

## HISTORICAL PROFILE

*See Figure 10-11: Cultural and Historic Resources, Tangent Comprehensive Plan*

It is believed that the first people to inhabit the Tangent area were the mound builders whose earthen mounds line the Calapooia River from Albany to Brownsville.

When the first settlers arrived in the area, the Calapooia people roamed the land. The Calapooia survived on the rich natural abundance as a hunting and gathering people.

The Calapooia used the canoe as a main vehicle of transport. By means of the canoe, families and whole communities went to their favorite fishing grounds, hunting terrain, nut and berry patches, or to places of abundant wild roots and plants.

According to Martin Rosenson, Anthropology Instructor at Linn-Benton Community College, there probably are some prehistoric mound sites that exist within the Tangent City limits. However, there have been no site-specific surveys completed that precisely determine the location, quantity and quality of any of these sites.

Several mounds have been identified within the Tangent Planning Area (Figure 10-11). The presence of these mounds would indicate a high level of prehistoric human activity within this area. The mounds that were identified and mapped by E.H. Margason, Lee Rohrbough, Dr. J.L. Hill, J.G. Crawford, Prof. John B. Horner, and A. (Foot) Blevins are by no means a complete inventory of prehistoric sites. More information needs to be gathered on the Calapooia and all people who inhabited the area. If a conscious effort is not made to identify, protect, and understand the cultural resources of the area, many of these resources may be lost forever.

During construction of the Tangent Sewer Project, a significant archaeological resource was discovered and surveyed by the State Archaeologist's Office. The site is listed as a probable prehistoric Euro-American burial mound within the Kalapuyan culture area. Because this area is highly sensitive and free from disclosure under federal and state law, the State Archaeologist's Office has recommended that the site not be mapped until such time as it may be considered for inclusion within the City's Urban Growth Boundary.

If potentially valuable resources are discovered, all necessary steps shall be taken to survey and preserve the resources in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Tangent was established in 1871, when the railroad was built through the valley. The name "Tangent" refers to the twenty miles of straight track north and south of town. The town acted as a gathering place for local farmers and a train stop. The first grange building in Oregon was completed in Tangent in July, 1873. In 1886, Tangent acquired a post office. By 1891, William Felzer of Tangent acquired a small amount of grass seed.

This may have been the actual beginning of the present-day rye-grass industry. Forest Jenks may have been the first commercial producer of rye grass, when he began growing seed in 1922. The seed grown by Jenks was later cleaned at W. A. Vollstedt's seed cleaning plant in Tangent. The seed was bought by Jenks White Seed Company, which was instrumental in opening up the eastern market for this important crop.

Tangent has acted as an agricultural and commercial center for the region for more than a century. Its incorporation in 1973 signals its growing awareness of this role, and its attitude towards local control.

Further information on the history and people of early Tangent can be acquired from *The History of Linn County, W.P.A. Writer's Project, 1941*, and *The Land of Linn, Floyd C. Mullen, 1971*. Interest in historic areas, sites, structures, and objects continues to grow in Tangent.

## **HISTORY INVENTORY**

### *See Figure 10-11: Historical Sites and Structures*

A requirement of Goal 5 of the Statewide land use planning goals is inventorying the location, quality, and quantity of historic areas, sites, structures, and objects.

The Linn County Planning Department conducted an extensive survey of historic structures during 1983. This survey, known as the Tangent Historic Structures Inventory, is adopted as a supportive document to this Comprehensive Plan. It identifies six historic structures and/or sites.

In order to implement Goal 5, and to meet the Community policy for the preservation of historic structures, the City has incorporated a Historic Preservation Section into the Tangent Zoning Ordinance, that requires City review of any change of the inventoried structures and strives for their preservation. The effort to identify and inventory historic structures, sites, and objects in Tangent should continue. Tangent should also give support to citizens interested in local history and property owners who wish to place their structure, sites, and objects on historic registers.

In the preliminary inventory, it was found that most historic structures are houses that fall into one of the following architectural styles:

1. **Modified Dutch Colonial**
2. **Rural Vernacular**
3. **Bungalow**

Several federal and state laws address historic sites, structures, and objects. The following is a list of existing federal and state legislation:

## FEDERAL

1. **Historic American Sites Act (1935)** made protection of historic resources a national policy and established the National Register of Historic Places.
2. **National Trust for Historic Preservation (1941)** is a private, non-profit organization intended to educate the public about historic preservation.
3. **National Historic Preservation Act (1966)** established a program of matching grants in aid to states and the National Trust and established cooperation with the state for administration within their jurisdictions of the National Register program.
4. **Transportation Act (1966)** provides for protection of historic sites threatened by highway construction.
5. **National Environmental Policy Act (1969)** requires consideration of federal project impact on cultural resources as part of the overall environmental assessments.

## STATE

1. **H.B. 2476** provides for special tax relief on buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
2. **H.B. 2333** encourages retention of single-family residences in industrial or commercial zones by assessing property value as a residence.
3. **H.B. 2342** allows for a tax exemption on improvements made on rental properties that are 25 years of age or older.
4. **H.B. 2344** exempts from assessment increase, maintenance repairs or replacement work done on an existing dwelling.