

Submitter: Robin Quon
On Behalf Of: myself and my husband
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3190

I am currently a member of the Lake Oswego Historic Resources Advisory Board. I have taken a personal interest in an adorable mid century A Frame restaurant on Lower Boones Ferry that used to be The Giant Hamburger stand. Tons of people in LO spent lots of time after school, on dates, etc. at this spot over the decades. When the first offer on it came in after the owners retired, it was to tear down the building and build a retail main floor/apartments upstairs. What a tragedy it would have been! Fortunately, zoning wouldn't permit it, so the offer was withdrawn. A couple of unsuccessful offers later, a man who runs a very successful food truck in Hillsboro bought it. I have been speaking with him since it was acquired, trying to insure the preservation of the building for the future. When HRAB did a survey of the area that included this site, it was found to be eligible for listing in our Landmarks List. And staff at the National Register agree that it is appropriate for Landmark status. But I have virtually nothing to offer him to encourage him to accept the limitations, albeit very small, on his use of the space. Having this program back would permit us to provide an additional financial incentive that could help his new business thrive. And it could help him manage the extra expenses of restoring an older structure within the city's requirements.

When I was on the Portland Landmarks Commission, in the late '70's and early 80's, our staff person, Leo Williams, always said of the preservation movement, "How do we know it's us without our past?" So many buildings in Oregon have fallen to redevelopment. Back in the '70's and '80's, at the heyday of preservation, we had financial incentives. That's why Portland and Oregon City and so many other cities were able to preserve their history. WE NEED IT BACK! In fact, it should be more robust than it was - why not include residences?

Please support HB3190 so that we all can have our history be part of our environment...forever.

Thank you.

Robin Quon