

OREGON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE HISTORIC RESOURCE RECORD

Instructions

Use this form to enter a property into the Oregon Historic Sites Database or to request that staff evaluate a property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

To have a property evaluated for its potential for listing in the National Register, please complete all blanks and write neatly. Provide as much information about the exterior and interior as possible, such as the number of stories, cladding materials, and general room layout, under "General Description." Under "Building History," include any information about the architect, builder, original owners and subsequent occupants, and historic activities or events that occurred at the property. If available, attach historic photos, newspaper clippings, obituaries, and other documentation to help the reviewer better understand your property. Use additional sheets if necessary.

IMPORTANT: Submit current exterior (all sides) and interior color photographs (entry, living room, dining room, kitchen, master bedroom, hallway spaces, etc). If the property has outbuildings, include these photos too.

Mail completed forms to National Register Program, Oregon State Historic Preservation Office, ATTN: Tracy Collis, 725 Summer St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 or email them to Tracy.Collis@oregon.gov with "HRR" in the subject line. Emailed submissions must be under 10MB in size and include digital photos of the property. Mail submissions must include printed photographs. HRRs are reviewed within two weeks of submission.

All materials submitted to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office become property of the State of Oregon and are available as public records. Materials submitted to the SHPO will not be returned.

Applicant Information

Name	Jessica Gabriel	Date	August 30, 2021
Mailing Address	595 Cascade Drive NW		
City/State/Zip	Salem, Oregon 97304		
Phone Number	720.934.2209	E-mail	jgabriel@cascadecultural.com

Property Information

Historic Name, if known	Sarah Helmick State Park		
Street Address	10485 Helmick Road		
City/Town	Monmouth, OR 97361	County	Polk

Owner Information

Complete if the applicant is not the owner. Response will be sent to the applicant and owner. Private property cannot be listed in the National without owner consent.

Name/Institution	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department		
Contact Name	Christy Sweet		
Mailing Address	725 Summer Street NE, Suite C		
City/State/Zip	Salem, Oregon 97301		
Phone Number	971.345.7288	E-mail	christina.sweet@oregon.gov

Application Type

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Add this property to Oregon Historic Sites Database | <p><i>Staff will enter the data submitted in the Oregon Historic Sites Database, file this application in archive and may make a determination of eligibility for the National Register, but will not respond to the applicant.</i></p> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evaluate this property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places | <p><i>Staff will enter the data submitted in the Oregon Historic Sites Database, file this application in our permanent archive, and will make a determination of eligibility for the National Register, and respond to the applicant specific instructions on how to nominate the property to the Register.</i></p> |

Property Name and Address: Sarah Helmick State Park, 10485 Helmick Rd, Monmouth, OR 97361

Exterior Description

Construction Date 1922 Note source (estimated, deed, other record(s)) Date of park dedication per OPRD records

Original use. Domestic Commercial Government Industrial Agricultural
Check all that apply
 Other: _____

Siding material(s). Horizontal Wood Vertical Board Brick Stone Asbestos Vinyl
Check all that apply
 Other: _____

Write a general exterior description, including building shape, height, roof type, and any special features.

Historic property is a park with a circular roadway, parking spots, day use areas, and rest facilities. Some structures within the park itself are historical, but have undergone maintenance and modification, the extent of which is still being researched. Materials used within the park include cedar shingles, wood siding, brick, and concrete in a rustic design.

Write a general interior description, including general layout, major rooms, and any special features.

The restrooms are the only interiors present at Sarah Helmick State Park and have been updated as needed since construction (circa 1950 and 1970). Restrooms accessed include two stalls and one sink with bare wood walls, exposed beams, and a skylight.

List known or probable alterations and the approximate date the work was done.

Based on information from historic aerial photographs and topographic maps, the circulation pattern of the park was slightly modified between 1967 and 1972, however this has not changed since 1972. Overnight camping used to be a draw of the park, but declined in the early 1960s and has been day use only since.

Building History

Please explain what events and persons are associated with this property and whether the building's architecture or the construction methods used to build it are noteworthy. Use additional pages if necessary.

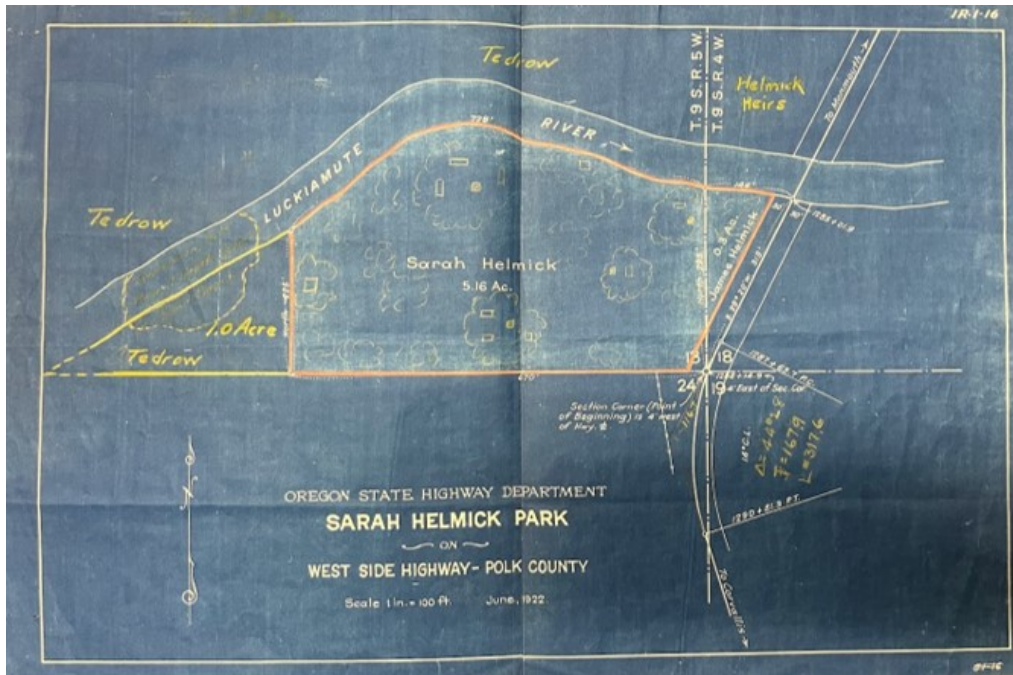
Sarah Helmick (née Steeprow) and Henry Helmick arrived in Oregon in 1845. Emigrating via the Oregon Trail from Burlington, Iowa they "took up their own claim on the Luckiamute" (Nesbit 1925) in 1846. With the enactment of the Donation Land Claim Act in 1850, Sarah and Henry were allowed to legally claim their 640 acres in Polk County. Sarah lived on the homestead until she was widowed in 1877, when she moved to 138 Seventh Avenue in Albany. In 1922, Sarah and her son James donated 5.46 acres to the Oregon State Highway Commission "to provide the traveling public a place to rest or stop overnight" (Armstrong 1965). The park's formal dedication ceremony was held on September 12, 1924 and coincided with the completion of the West Side Highway, the paving operations of which had previously blocked access to the park. The Helmick's donation represents the first state park in Oregon.

Also known as Helmick State Park, the property grew in 1948 through additional land purchases including 23.65 acres which were formerly part of an artillery range at Camp Adair and a donation from William and Mary Weist. An additional 44.6 acres were donated in 1985 by Peter and Maryle Larson. Through additional acquisitions, Sarah Helmick State Park totals 81.72 acres as of 2021.

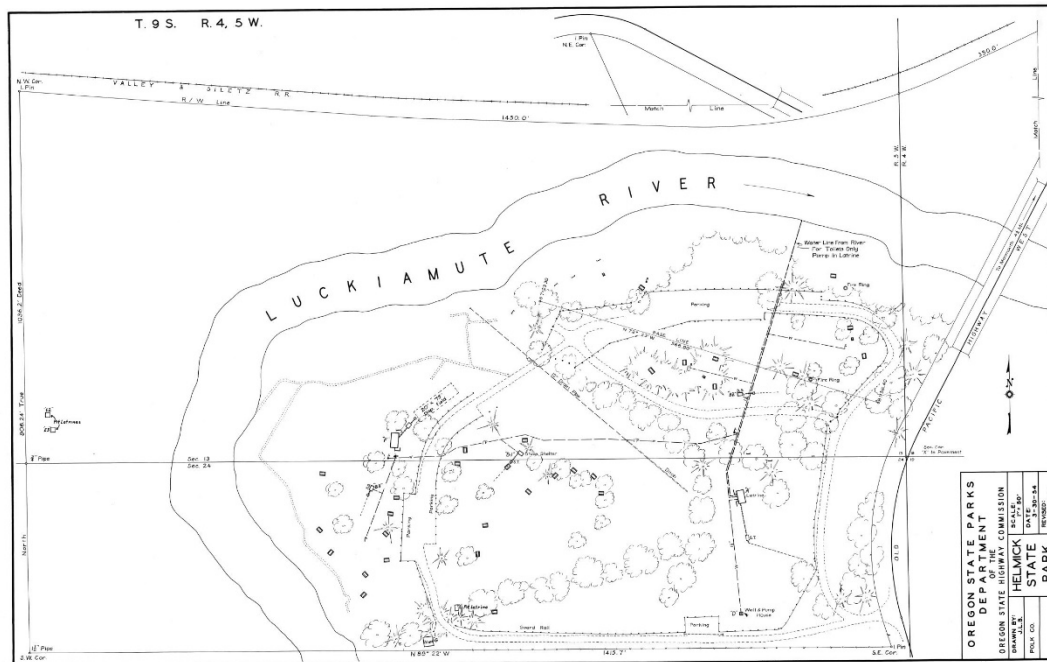
Sarah Helmick State Park is Oregon's first of a system that now includes 254 parks on approximately 122,847 acres. From this beginning, Oregon State Parks now serves an estimated 51.7 million day-use visitors and 2.95 million overnight campers. Sarah Helmick State Park represents the earliest days and growth of automobile recreation in Oregon and the beginning of what would become Oregon State Parks.

Sarah Helmick State Park is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Place as a site significant at the state level under Criteria A for its association with recreation, specifically automobile tourism, in Oregon. The property retains integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling. There are certainly historical elements of the park remaining, however to what extent, is still a research question in progress. Integrity of design, workmanship, and materials may still be relatively intact and additional research will offer more insight. The circular road, parking areas, stove shelters, picnic tables, picnic areas, and swimming beach are historical features of the park that, although they have undergone maintenance and modification, still convey the intended use of the property as a place to rest and retreat from the "broiling sun" allowing "the shade trees of the park show to full value" (The Capital Journal 1924).

Figures & Maps



(a)



(b)

(a) June 1922 blueprint for Sarah Helmick State Park showing possible location of shelters and picnic tables. Swimming area in yellow at left.

(b) Map of Sarah Helmick State Park dated 1954, revised 1958, showing circular roadway and parking areas before modification between 1967 and 1972. Both maps available from archival records at Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; accessed September 2, 2021.



(c)



(d)

(c) An undated panoramic photograph shows the entrance of Sarah Helmick State Park looking west. Image available from archival records at Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; accessed September 2, 2021.

(d) Photograph showing a similar view looking west. Photograph taken by J.N. Gabriel, August 31, 2021.



(e)



(f)

(e) Photograph showing area directly north of entrance showing new extended curbing, dated April 14, 1972. Image available from archival records at Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; accessed September 2, 2021.

(f) Photograph showing a similar view looking north. Photograph taken by J.N. Gabriel, August 31, 2021.



(g)

(g) Sarah Helmick or Helmick State Park entrance sign circa 1990. Image available from archival records at Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; accessed September 2, 2021.



(h)

(h) Similar view looking north. Photograph taken by J.N. Gabriel, August 31, 2021.



(i)



(j)

(i) Stove shelter visible in the background of picnic area across from restrooms, looking east, circa 1990. While there are two other shelters remaining in the park, this specific structure is no longer extant. Image available from archival records at Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; accessed September 2, 2021.

(j) One of two remaining stove shelters, this one near entrance picnic area looking north. Sinks and stoves have been removed but water spigot and electrical plugs are present. Photograph taken by J.N. Gabriel, August 31, 2021.



(k)



(l)

(k) Bathroom built 1955. Photograph taken March 1957. Image available from archival records at Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; accessed September 2, 2021.

(l) Similar view of modified restrooms looking west/southwest. Photograph taken by J.N. Gabriel, August 31, 2021.



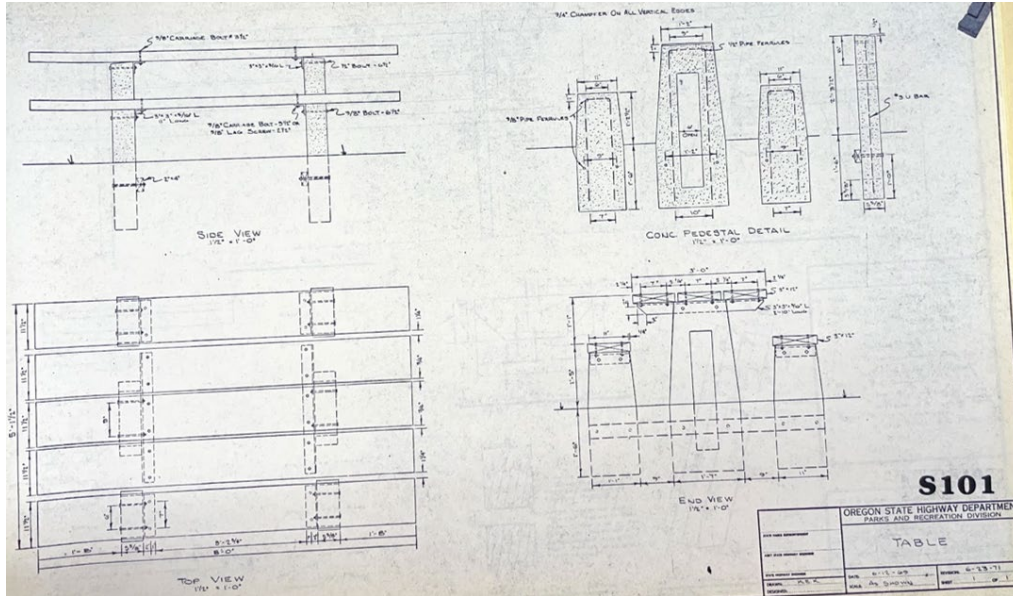
(m)



(n)

(m) Bathroom built circa 1970, looking southeast. Photograph taken by J.N. Gabriel, August 31, 2021.

(n) One of two types of concrete, permanent picnic tables present at Sarah Helmick State Park. Park archives suggests this style dates from no earlier than 1969. Photograph taken by J.N. Gabriel, August 31, 2021.



(o)



(p)

(o) 1969 to 1971 plans for first type of concrete, permanent picnic table found at Sarah Helmick State Park. Records available from archival records at Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; accessed September 2, 2021. Photograph taken by J.N. Gabriel, August 31, 2021.

(p) Second type of concrete, permanent picnic tables present at Sarah Helmick State Park. Style was not found in archival records. While not linked to a specific date, these tables are thought to post-date the first picnic table type. Photograph taken by J.N. Gabriel, August 31, 2021.

HONOR IS DONE TO DONOR OF PARK IN SPITE OF ABSENCE

Because it was considered inadvisable for her to make the trip, Mrs. Sarah Helmick was not present at Independence Friday to attend the dedication of Helmick Park upon the occasion of the completion of the west side Pacific highway. Mrs. Helmick was to have received in person the chief honors of the occasion, but it was finally decided that her extreme age, 101 years, would make the trip to Monmouth too hazardous.

The celebration at Helmick park included sports in the morning; a barbecue at noon, and the following afternoon program:

1:30 p. m.—Drill by Company M, O. N. G., of Corvallis.

2:00 p. m.—Flag Raising by American Legion post, No. 33 of Independence. Star Spangled Banner by Corvallis band. Pledge and Creed to our country.

2:30—Music by Independence Boys band. Presentation of Park by Frances Helmick, Hill, Albany. Acceptance of Park by Governor Walter M. Pierce. Presentation of Testimonial to Mrs. Sarah Helmick. Music by Corvallis band. Greetings by Monmouth Commercial Club. Response by Corvallis and McMinnville Chambers of Commerce. Music by Independence band. Song by Audience. Obsequies of "Old Man Detour". Music by bands.

(q)

STATE ACCEPTS HELMICK TRACT FOR AUTO PARK

Monmouth, Sept. 13.—The completion of the last link of the west side branch of the Pacific highway was celebrated yesterday at Helmick park, four miles south of Monmouth, on the banks of the Luckiamute river.

Coincidental with the formal opening of the highway to traffic was also the dedication of Helmick park, a tract of several acres presented to the state by Mrs. Sarah Helmick, a pioneer, it being a part of the Helmick donation land claim, taken in 1848.

The celebration was under the auspices of the Monmouth commercial club. Large delegations were present from all the west side towns and surrounding country. A large delegation came from Corvallis, led by the commercial club of that city.

The exercises opened with the removal of the barrier, which has confronted travel for a long time and the burial of Old Man Detour in the placid waters of the Luckiamute.

The remainder of the forenoon was given to sports and music by the bands. At noon a free barbecue was enjoyed.

In the afternoon came the formal dedication of the seven-acre park, made by Frances Helmick Hill in behalf of her mother, Mrs. Sarah Helmick, a centenarian. On behalf of the state the park was accepted by Governor Pierce.

J. S. Landers, president of Oregon Normal school, was master of ceremonies.

The completion of the highway marks the end of a long period of construction, attended by considerable controversy and litigation over the location of the highway through Polk county, all of which is now laid aside and being forgotten. It also denotes the end of the improvement of the state highway system in the Willamette valley.

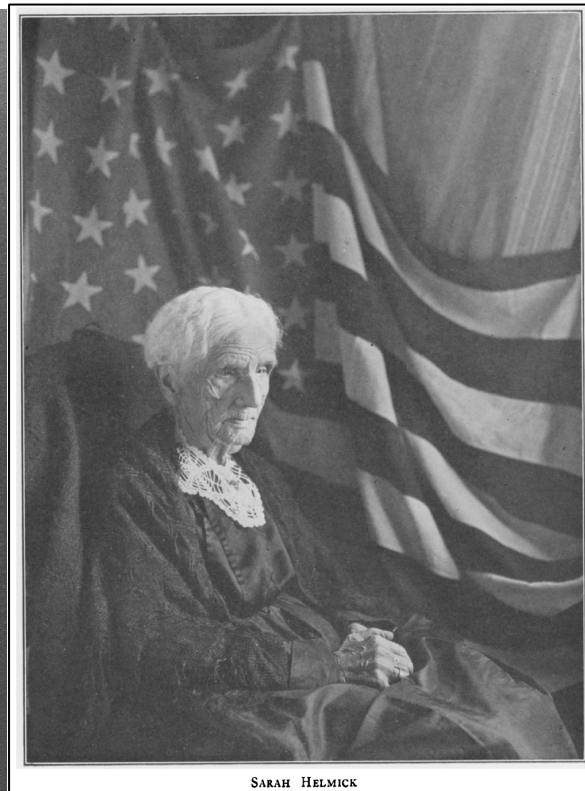
(r)

(q) Albany Democrat (Albany, Oregon). 14 Sep 1924, Sun. Page 1. Downloaded on Feb 18, 2021.

(r) Albany Democrat-Herald (Albany, Oregon). 13 Sep 1924, Sat. Page 6. Downloaded on Feb 18, 2021.



(s)



(t)

(s) 1910 portrait of Sarah Helmick from the Polk County Historical Society. Accessed August 30, 2021.

(t) Portrait of Sarah Helmick included in 1925 article, approximately 100 years old at time of photograph. *The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, Dec., 1925, Vol. 26, No. 4 (Dec., 1925), pp. 444-447. Accessed August 30, 2021. Oregon Historical Society.

HRR References Cited

Nesbit, Virginia

1925 *Sarah Helmick and Helmick Park*. *The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society*, Dec., 1925, Vol.26, No. 4 (Dec., 1925), pp. 444-447.

The Capital Journal

1924 *New Highway on Westside Dedicated*. *The Capital Journal* (Salem, Oregon). 13 Sep 1924, Sat. Downloaded on Feb 18, 2021.