

On July 15 and 16, men of the Air National Guard, 142 Combat Support Squadron, and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, Engineers Support Co, 6th Engineers Support Battalion, moved the two halves of the building 200 miles to Salem.

The State Highway Division and the State Department of Police, along with many local utility companies and police forces, helped clear the way for the convoy of trucks and pilot cars.

Work progressed daily to restore the building in time for the 1976 State Fair. The acquisition, move and restoration of the building was at no direct cost to the State of Oregon. Construction materials were donated by local businesses. Labor was largely volunteer. The Vocational Training Section of the State Correctional Institution provided many workdays of valuable help. All furnishings and display items have been donated.



The Criterion Schoolhouse restored and ready for visitors on the State Fairgrounds.

The Criterion Schoolhouse

A Tribute to Public Education in Oregon

WE NEED YOUR HELP To repair and preserve this historical treasure

The roof on the Criterion Schoolhouse began to fail the summer of 2016 after 40 years serving the State of Oregon. The Oregon Retired Educators Association (OREA), along with key allies, launched a campaign to raise the funds needed to repair the roof prior to the opening of the 2017 Oregon State Fair.

OREA has been joined by the Oregon State Fair Foundation to continue work on additional necessary repairs such as replacing the windows, fixing dry rot, and painting the building.

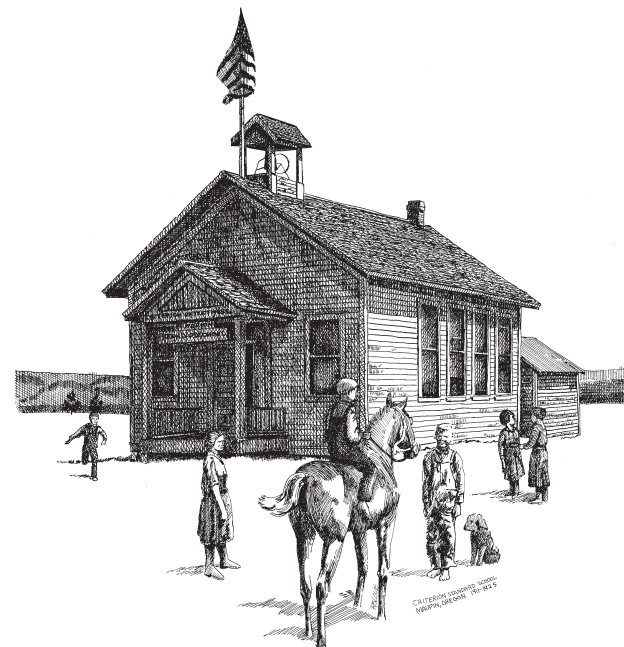
You can help with this worthwhile effort by making a tax-deductible donation. Please make checks payable to the Oregon State Fair Foundation with the comment "for the Criterion Schoolhouse Project." Please mail checks to:

Oregon State Fair Foundation
2330 17th Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

EIN # 84-1628762

Criterion School, 1912

Located near Maupin, Wasco County, Oregon



OREA Mission Statement

The Criterion Schoolhouse stands on the Oregon State Fairgrounds as a tribute to public education. Our purpose is to help repair, preserve and enhance this historical treasure.



*"Thank you for preserving for posterity
a glimpse of the past"*

Phyllis M. Herrling, Teacher
Criterion School, 1921-1923

Until the last few decades, most Americans learned their ABCs in one-room schoolhouses. Each community would pool its resources and, often at real sacrifice, build a school for its children. The teacher would “board in” with one or more of the families. The children would share the chores of toting water or firewood.

The one-room school stands as a symbol for home, school and community working together. Furthermore, the Criterion Schoolhouse stands in tribute to public education in the State of Oregon.



Criterion School, playground and students, 1925

Yesterday

As many as 25 children from the homesteading families in the area attended this school. To get to school, the youngsters either walked or rode horseback. Criterion School was in operation until 1925, until The Dalles-California Highway was completed to Maupin. From then on, the children were bused into town to school.

As time passed the families moved away. After 1925, the building was used for Sunday School, for voting, and for dances. In 1953, the school consolidated within District 84 in Maupin. Eventually, the Criterion School site was bought by a local rancher in 1969, and he used the building for hay and grain storage.

Criterion School was the first school in Wasco County to be declared “standard.” This meant that the school met all of the minimum standards that were set by the county superintendents. Some of the standards read as follows:

*FLAG— Must be flying weather permitting;
STANDARD PICTURE— One new one unless three are already in the room and framed;
OUTBUILDINGS— At least two good ones to be sanitary at all times and free from marks;
TEACHER— Must maintain good order at all times and supervise the playground; have her work well prepared; follow State course of study; make at least one educational journal; have program posted in room; keep register in good condition and be neat in attire.*



Criterion School Community, 1914

The Search

From November 1975 through the spring of 1976, the Department of Education searched statewide for abandoned one-room schoolhouses. Over 50 were considered. Criterion was chosen because it is a typical example of early schoolhouses. The building was in excellent condition due largely to the dry climate.



Criterion School, on site near Maupin, 1976

The Big Move

The school was donated to the State of Oregon by its owners: Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hunt of Maupin, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Justesen of Kent, and Mrs. Shirley Rugg of Boardman. The State Fair Commission granted permission to locate the building on the State Fairgrounds.

On July 10, 1976, men of the National Guard, Company B, 1249th Engineer Battalion traveled to the school site to dismantle the building and prepare it for its move to Salem. Due to the width of the building, it had to be cut in two before it could be moved safely down the highway. The move was supervised by Rainbow Construction Company.



Moving the School to Salem