



SAVING HISTORIC PLACES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - April 1, 2017

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Restore Oregon Offers RARE Opportunity to Tour Pioneer-Era Homes

- Exploration of Three Willamette Valley Homesteads Will Offer Unique Glimpses into Oregon's Settler Past -

SALEM, OR – Restore Oregon is presenting a Pioneer Era Home Tour on Saturday, May 20th from 11 am - 4 pm.

[Willamette Valley pioneer homesteads](#) were a major focus of Restore Oregon's *Most Endangered Places* list back in 2013. Concern for their continued survival led to the publication of an in-depth [study](#) determining the most effective ways to preserve and reuse our state's few remaining pioneer properties. One of the homes prominently featured in that study was the Sam Brown House, which will also serve as one of the stops on this tour.

Located in the town of Gervais, the Sam Brown House was the first "architect-designed" home in Oregon, and is considered one of the most important pioneer structures in our state. Built on donation land claim acreage, the home served as a waystation for the Oregon-California stagecoach line until 1872. Its namesake, Samuel Brown, settled in Oregon after making his fortune in the California gold rush. He later served as an Oregon state senator until 1872. His son, Samuel Brown II, followed in his footsteps by serving in the Oregon House of Representatives and the Oregon Senate. Currently in the early stages of the restoration process, the Sam Brown House will serve as the "Before" structure on this tour, giving visitors insight into the challenges facing a pre-renovation pioneer structure.

Another stop on the tour will be the Delaney House, located slightly southeast of Salem. The Delaney House, also known as the Delaney-Edwards House, is one of the three oldest existing homes in Oregon. It provides an excellent example of an early settlement Willamette Valley farmhouse architecture. Its structural evolution tells a compelling story by illustrating how needs, prosperity and even style-preferences changed over the decades between the mid-19th and mid-20th centuries. Recently refurbished by Restore Oregon member Karla Pearlstein, the Delaney House will serve as the "After" structure on the tour, providing many lovely examples of pioneer farmhouse renovation possibilities.

Located in Aurora, the third home featured on the tour is the Frederick Keil House. Although built in 1870, the Keil House recalls the 18th century in both spirit and style. With its Classical Revival detailing and exceptional porches, the house is revered for its construction quality. It is also quite historically significant given its association with Frederick and Elias Keil, the son and grandson of Dr. William Keil - founder and leader of the utopian [Aurora Colony](#). The Frederick Keil House is included on this tour to offer an example of direct preservation action, as Restore Oregon holds a historic conservation easement on the home, protecting its historic features in perpetuity.

Tickets for the Pioneer Era Home Tour will be available for purchase via the Restore Oregon website beginning April 10. Prices are \$15 for Restore Oregon members, and \$20 for the general public. Homes will be available for viewing from 11am - 4 pm. (This is a self-driving tour. Homes may be visited in any order.)

About Restore Oregon: *Founded in 1977, Restore Oregon is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization which advocates for sound preservation policy and legislation. Our mission is to preserve, reuse and pass forward the historic places that create livable communities. Each year, we provide statewide educational programming and technical assistance, while working to save the sites and structures featured on our annual list of [Oregon's Most Endangered Places](#). We hold over 40 conservation easements on historic properties, thereby protecting them in perpetuity. Learn more at www.restoreoregon.org*