

ODD FELLOWS HISTORIC CABINS

In Celebration of Newberry National Volcanic Monument



Cabins 1-4 at Paulina Lake. Photo Courtesy of USFS

The Organization Camp of Bend Lodge No. 218

Written by Amy Jensen

In response to the poverty-stricken conditions of 17th-century England, a group of frustrated and inspired citizens began a philanthropic quest. In the early 1800's, these citizens worked together, pooling their money and resources, to provide small amounts of charity to their fellow citizens who were most vulnerable. Notably, an observer stated "It is odd that a person might help another and expect nothing in return." What followed was the establishment of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) in North America in 1819. Following their stated principles

of “Friendship, Love and Truth”- proudly displayed as “F,L,T” on their emblem, the group began to construct and manage fellowship lodges throughout the United States, among other philanthropic avenues. One such site, constructed more than 100 years after the birth of IOOF, can be found on the south shores of Paulina Lake in the Newberry National Volcanic Monument. of “Friendship, Love and Truth”- proudly displayed as “F,L,T” on their emblem, the group began to construct and manage fellowship lodges throughout the United States, among other philanthropic avenues. One such site, constructed more than 100 years after the birth of IOOF, can be found on the south shores of Paulina Lake in the Newberry National Volcanic Monument.



Photo Courtesy of USFS

The Odd Fellows cabins and lodge at Paulina Lake - also known as The Organization Camp of Bend Lodge No. 218 - were constructed with native lava rock, harvested pine from the area, and were erected during the 1930s. These cabins retain Depression-era architecture that are common among cabins

built within the forests of the Pacific Northwest. Originally, they were built as forest recreational cabins to be utilized by the Odd Fellows Subordinate Lodge of Bend for camp meetings and recreation. The campground was developed on a 5.39-acre plot with planning oversight from the United States Forest Service. The lodge remains in use as Paulina Lake Lodge. Seven of the eleven original cabins are now considered “summer homes” and many are only in their second generation of ownership. The remaining four cabins, nestled into modern day Newberry Group Camp, are the last remnants of the IOOF Organizational Camp - still very similar in appearance to when the major construction finished around 1936. In 1983, in recognition of their historic and potential future use, they were added to the National Register of Historic Places.

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“There is so much potential in these historic gems to provide incredible year round lodging experiences in the caldera, as well as the possibility of generating much needed revenue to support all of the programs on the monument.”

- Rika Ayotte, Executive Director of Discover Your Forest

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Paulina Lake Cabin No. 24 - Photo Courtesy of USFS

Considering the amount of weather the location gets, the cabins have continued to stay in relatively good condition. That said, nearly a century of snow accumulation and melting, wind storms and fires have caused some wear and tear on these historic buildings. The Deschutes National Forest publicly announced their intent to pursue restoration, interpretation and opportunity for occupancy as recreation rentals years ago. The Deschutes County Historic Landmarks Commission heard about the project back in 2018 and decided to work alongside the Forest Service. Their efforts helped to guide and fund the ongoing restoration efforts. In 2020, HistoriCorps field staff, alongside a team of volunteers, were able to accomplish some key objectives towards restoring these cabins for use. Together, they carefully removed and replaced deteriorated logs from the base of Cabin #1 and Cabin #2, deconstructed and re-built the top of a brick chimney on Cabin #4, and removed and replaced deteriorated chinking and daubing on the exterior of Cabin #4.

Discover Your Forest is continuing to accept donations from community members and organizations who share interest in keeping these historic treasures alive. If you feel inclined to make a financial contribution towards the restoration of the Odd Fellows Historic Cabins, you can do so at discoveryyourforest.org/donate.

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