STATE OF OREGON

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PERMIT APPLICATION

Applicant Information

Applicant: Chelsea Rose

Institution/Company: SOULA AP# 3339

Email: rosec@sou.edu

Project Information

Project Name: Gleason Pool Monitoring SHPO Case#:

Agency with Management Control over the Project: Grant County

Agency Contact Name: Steve Jenevein Phone #: 541-388-6211

Email: steve.jenevein@oregon.gov

Location

Township		Range		Section(s)
13	S	31	E	23

County: Grant

City or County Planning Department: City of John Day

Smithsonian Trinomial (as applicable): 35GR2086

Landowner

Landowner Name: City of John Day Representative: Nicholas Green

Email: greenn@grantcounty-or.gov Phone: 541-575-0028

Address: 450 East Main Street, John Day, OR 97845

Curation

Temporary Curation Facility: SOULA

Permanent Curation Facility: University of Oregon Museum of Natural & Cultural History (UOMNCH)

For Private Lands, permanent curation facility must match what is selected on the private landowner letter.

If selecting other, an approval letter from UOMNCH is required.

Excavation Summary

Number of 30cm diameter shovel probes: 0 Number of 50x50 cm quarter test units: 20

Number of 1x1 meter test units: 2 Screen Size(s): 1/8" Dry

Levels: 10 cm arbitrary Surface Collection: Yes Bucket Auger: No Monitoring: Yes

Termination: After minimum of 50 cm where the last two levels are culturally sterile, barring impenetrable layers

Quantity and type of other units/probes, varied screening methods (if selected above), and other levels/termination:

The project will primarily focus within the area where the Gleason Pool is being demolished, and therefore excavation methods will be dependent on the specific circumstances and ability to access to soils or archaeological features.

Qualified Archaeologist(s) in the field who has direct charge of excavation (must include the applicant and each individual listed must be on the SHPO "Qualified Archaeologist" list):

Chelsea Rose, Steve Jenevein

Estimated Starting Date of Fieldwork: 4/21/22

Estimated Date of Fieldwork Completion: 8/21/22

Attachments

Required Attachments:

Research Design (Per OAR 736-051-0080[4][c] and 0090[3][A]): ✔

USGS 7.5' topographic map depicting permit area: ✔

Other Attachments:

Landowner Letter (if permit is for Private Land): ☐

Curation Letter (if other curation facility is proposed for non-federal public land: ☐

Notes

Applicants are responsible for the accuracy of information in the application, in particular, regarding landowners, appropriate planning departments, and whether the application is for private or non-federal public lands.

Additional information on Oregon Archaeological Permits may be found on the SHPO website, in Archaeology Bulletin 2, Archaeology Bulletin 5, OAR 736-051-0000 to 0090, and ORS 390.235.

Curation of artifact collections at UOMNCH must meet museum guidelines. For collections being given to landowners a complete collection of field and lab records and digital photos needs to be sent to UOMNCH.

If the investigation is associated with a prehistoric or historic American Indian archaeological site, **consultation with the most appropriate Tribes must occur during the 30-day permit review period** (refer to ORS 358.950 and OAR 736-051-0080[8][c]).

When an applicant receives a final copy of their issued permit, please be mindful of any conditions from reviewers. Conditions ***must*** be met to comply with the permit. Applicants may become aware of conditions earlier in the process through consultation with reviewers.

Send complete applications to Arch.Permits@Oregon.gov. Do not submit applications to or cc: SHPO staff.

Research Design for Archaeological Monitoring at the Gleason Pool,
Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site (35GR2086)

By Chelsea Rose

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has hired the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology (SOULA) to conduct archaeological monitoring for the demolition of the Gleason Pool, located adjacent to the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site. The Gleason Pool was opened the summer of 1958 and remained in use until 2020 when it was closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The infrastructure needed to repair and maintain the pool was determined to be less than the cost of constructing a new city pool off-site; As such, the 3-acre parcel is in the process of being transferred to OPRD to be incorporated in to the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage site. The pool buildings and infrastructure are to be removed prior to the transfer, and this permit will cover the archaeological monitoring and any related investigations prompted by the demolition activities.

The Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site is located within John Day, Oregon in Township 13 south, Range 31 east, Section 23 of the John Day quadrangle in Grant County (Figure 1). The current project area falls within lands currently owned by the city of John Day (City), and is adjacent to the John Day Chinatown archaeological site 35GR2086 (Figure 2). While the archaeological investigations have not extended into the current APE, it falls within the historical footprint of the John Day Chinatown and therefore has the potential to contain resources associated with the Chinese occupation of the area (Figure 3).

The Kam Wah Chung and Company, or *Jin huachang*, was established in the 1870s as a Chinese labor broker business and later expanded under the partnership of Lung On and Ing Hay, who purchased the business in 1887 and used the building as a store, clinic, and apothecary in addition to other non-commercial activities. The Kam Wah Chung and Co. was closed in 1948, and the building and its contents were deeded to the City of John Day by Bob Wah, nephew of Ing Hay. The Kam Wah Chung and Co. building was surveyed in 1970, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973, and elevated to National Historic Landmark Status in 2005. The Kam Wah Chung and Co. museum is now managed by OPRD as a designated State Heritage Site, and includes the museum, a visitor center, and an outdoor park with interpretive signage.

The first archaeological investigations of the Kam Wah Chung and Co. and John Day Chinatown were conducted by the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History (UOMNCH), and included an exploratory study of the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site in the fall of 2005 (Schablitsky et al. 2006). The excavations led to the identification of archaeologically sensitive areas, and the creation of the Kam Wah Chung archaeological site 35GR2086 (the resource has since been renamed the John Day Chinatown site). UOMNCH archaeologists returned to the site in June of 2006 to conduct a GPR survey on select areas identified during the initial exploratory phase (Schablitsky et al. 2007). This was followed by additional excavation and the resulting data led

to the interpretation that large portions of the park had been impacted by 20th century mining and development, with intact archaeological deposits limited to a few areas around the museum building and along the hedgerow fence (Schablitsky et al. 2007).

SOULA conducted a remote sensing survey of the John Day Chinatown site in 2018, which led to the identification of several resources of interest and helped provide an updated interpretation of the site stratigraphy and subsurface potential (Rose et al. 2019). This was followed up by archaeological testing done as part of the 2019 Oregon Chinese Diaspora Project (OCDP) archaeological field school (Rose and Johnson 2020). The excavations were conducted on OPRD and City property, and revealed important information about the taphonomy of the site, and identified areas where intact archaeological deposits were present.

The current project provides the first opportunity for a professional archaeologist to observe the area beneath the mid-20th century Gleason Pool. While the construction of the pool and surrounding infrastructure would have certainly impacted any subsurface resources in the vicinity, it is possible that discreet features or deep deposits may remain under the current structure. An oral history with Herb Majors (Majors and Majors 2006:6) described artifacts being collected during the construction of the Gleason pool: "Lot's of bottles, medicine bottles and stuff, pretty interesting." Mr. Majors recalled that active bottle hunting was occurring at the site during the construction, and suggested that the excavation may have encountered the neighborhood dump. It is also possible that the excavation hit a trash-filled privy or other in-filled pit deposit in the area. While this account indicates that resources were disturbed through pool construction and looting, it could also be used to suggest that the pool was within an area of archaeological significance and additional deposits may be present.

Monitoring Plan

A professional archaeological monitor will be on site during all ground disturbing activities associated with the demolition of the pool and any associated infrastructure. Based on the location of the APE within the John Day Chinatown, and the description by Herb Majors of artifacts being observed during the construction, we anticipate that artifacts will be encountered during the demolition. The monitoring plan will be as follows:

- The archaeological monitor will carefully describe and document the soils and any visible stratigraphy encountered during the demolition. This information will be added to the larger dataset informing the formation and historical modification of the site.
- Observed artifacts will be documented and mapped, but only diagnostic artifacts or those with potential for use in the museum will be collected. Collection will be determined on a case by case basis. Where possible, the uncollected artifacts will be returned to their find spot and not removed offsite with the rubble or fill.
- While artifacts and general site "noise" are anticipated, if intact pockets of archaeological materials or potential features are encountered all ground disturbing activities in the vicinity will be stopped and the appropriate stakeholders will be consulted. If the cultural materials encountered reflect the Chinese occupation of the site, the following plan will be followed:
    - If deemed appropriate by the on-site archaeologist, a sample of excavated soils may be screened to determine what type/volume of materials are present.
    - If a discreet deposit is encountered, it will be avoided if possible. If it will be impacted by demolition activities, then where appropriate it may be recovered through the excavation of one or more 50 cm by 50 cm quarter test units (QTUs)

depending on the specific context, size, and location, of the find. **If needed, testing would include the excavation of no more than 20 QTUs.**

  - If intact deposits of potential significance are encountered and there are no further demolition activities pending or it can remain in situ, the resource may be secured so that archaeological excavation can occur at a later date. **This could include the excavation of no more than two (2) 1 m by 1 m test units.**

- All excavations will be done using 10 cm arbitrary levels and all material will be screened through 1/8" mesh. All units will be excavated to a minimum depth of 50 cm below the ground surface, with two contiguous sterile levels where possible. As these units will be placed within the areas impacted by pool construction and demolition, unit termination may be determined by external factors. If that is the case, the rational will be noted. All excavations will be mapped and documented to meet or exceed current SHPO guidelines. All recovered materials will be taken to SOULA for analysis, and then transferred to the University of Oregon's Museum of Natural and Cultural History (UOMNCH) for permanent curation.

The archaeological work described above will be done with the following research questions and themes in mind:

- Do intact archaeological resources remain under the Gleason Pool?
- Does the APE contain stratigraphic information that could help us better understand the formation and abandonment of the John Day Chinatown site 35GR2086? Ongoing research about local mining and the development of the Chinese community along Canyon Creek indicates that—like many early mining camps—the location of the John Day Chinatown was determined by its proximity to the mineral resources. The neighborhood was built up in and around the mining activity areas. It has been assumed that the mound where the pool is located is an artificial landform associated with 19th or 20th century mine tailings, however, SOULA's analysis of photographs and maps suggest that it could be a natural landform. Understanding this site component will help us to tease out larger questions about site taphonomy and guide future research at the site.
- Can the artifacts and archaeological deposits uncovered in the current APE help us understand the potential for subsurface resources in the neighboring portions of the City property that have not yet been excavated?
- Due to the extensive documentary and material culture record associated with the Kam Wah Chung and Co., artifacts recovered from the site can be placed within a general cultural context that is of local, regional, and international significance. However, while the lives of Ing Hay and Lung On have been documented in depth, little is known about the larger John Day Chinatown that supported the Kam Wah Chung and Co. to a point where it could sustain itself well into the 20th century. Information about the neighborhood over time would provide important data about the Chinese community in the area, and how residents were impacted by, or interacted with, the Kam Wah Chung and Co. business.
- This project is occurring as part of the Oregon Chinese Diaspora Project, and as such, the data will be used in multi-site level analysis of the 19th century Chinese immigrant population within the state. In addition, the data from this project can be used to inform the creation of the new park museum and associated interpretation of the site.

Works Cited

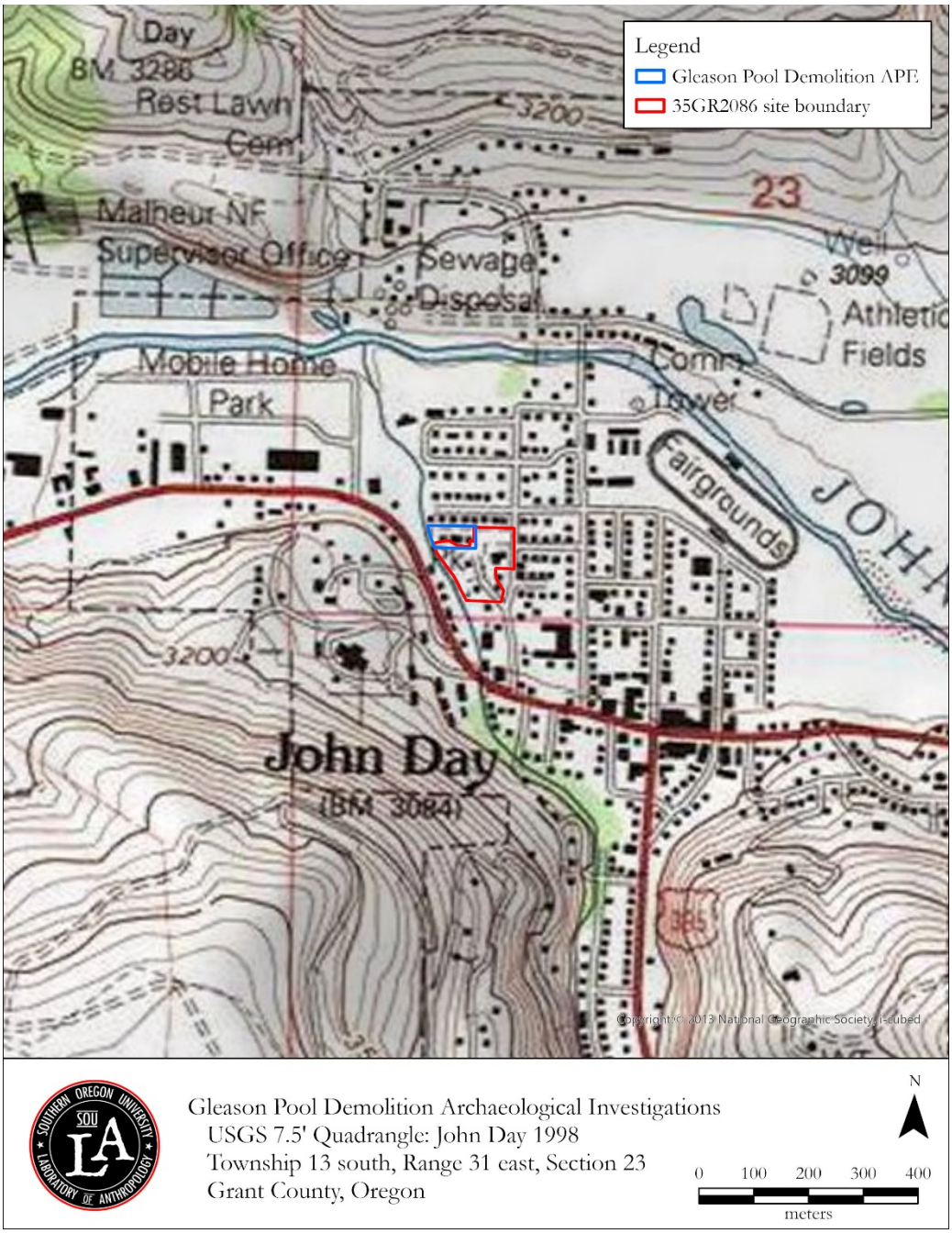
Majors, Yvonne, and Herb Majors
2006 Unpublished Oral History Transcript, on file at the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site, John Day, OR.

Rose, Chelsea and Katie Johnson
2020 Results of Archaeological Testing at the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site, John Day Chinatown Site 35GR2086. SOULA Report No. 2019.08, Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology, Ashland. (SHPO Report No. 32201)

Rose, Chelsea, Katie Johnson, and Lewis Somers
2019 Summary and Recommendations of the Geophysical Investigations at the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site. SOULA Report No. 2018.08, Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology, Ashland.

Schablitsky, Julie, Tom Connolly, and Chris Ruiz
2006 Exploratory Archaeological Study of the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site in the City of John Day, Grant County, Oregon. Museum Report 2006-31, University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History, Eugene.

2007 Archaeological Testing (2006) at the Kam Wah Chung Site, Oregon. Museum Report 2007-047, University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History, Eugene.



Gleason Pool Demolition Archaeological Investigations
USGS 7.5' Quadrangle: John Day 1998
Township 13 south, Range 31 east, Section 23
Grant County, Oregon

N

0 100 200 300 400
meters

Figure 1. Site locator map.

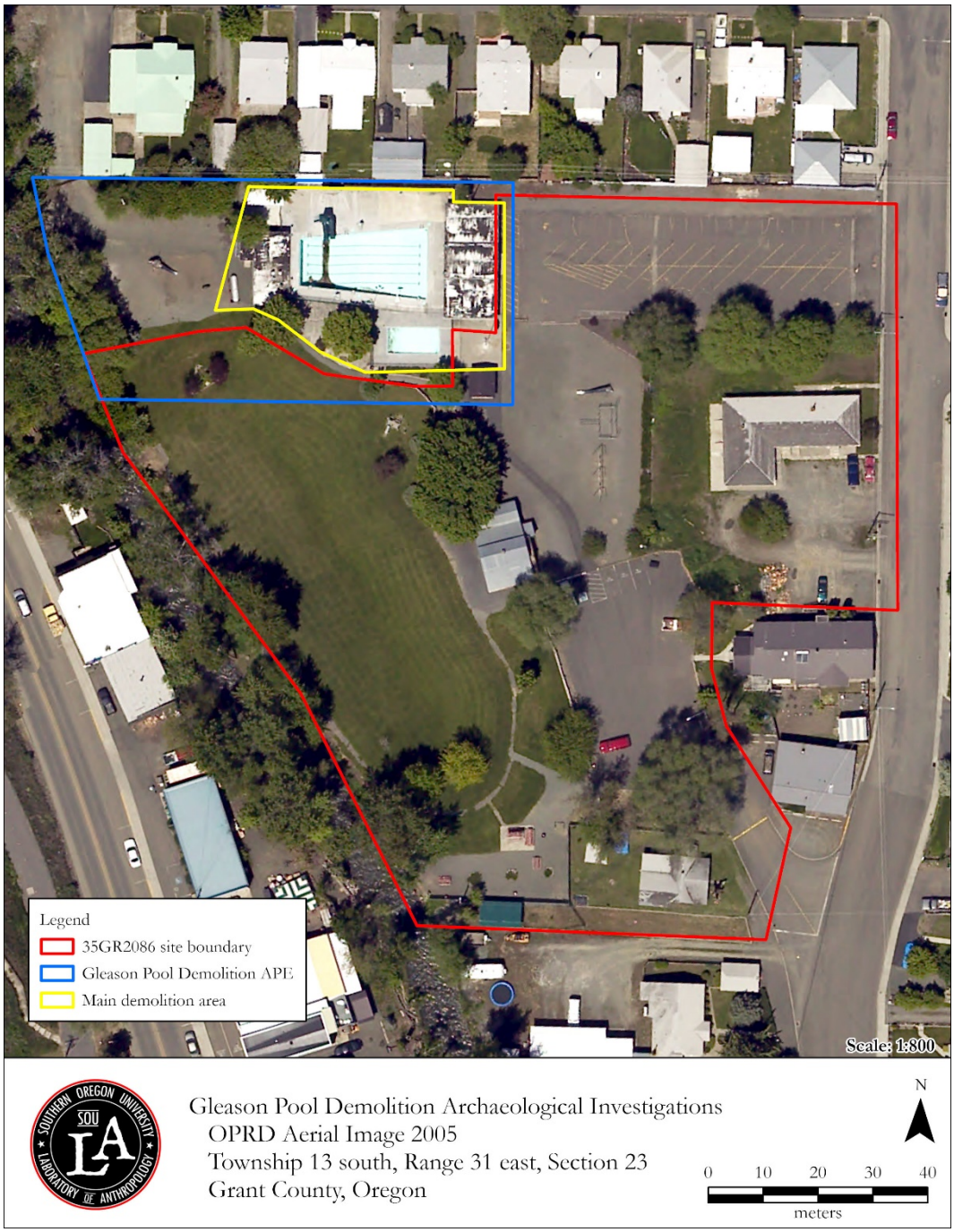


Figure 2. Aerial image of the project area with the site boundary and APE noted.

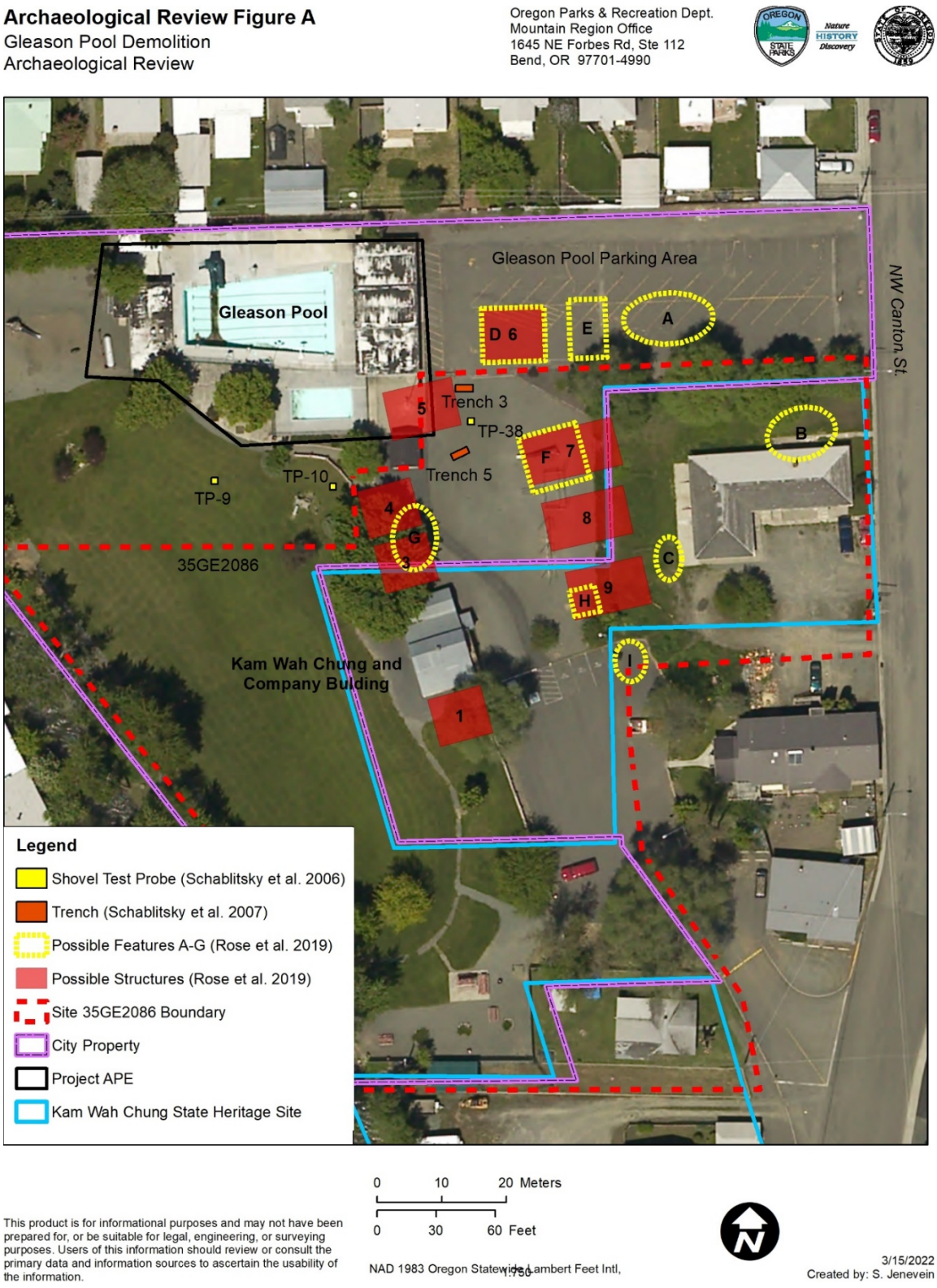


Figure 3. OPRD map of the project area with the previous archaeological work noted.

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department
Mountain Region Office
62976 O.B. Riley Rd
Bend, OR 97703-9093
(541) 388-6211
Fax (541) 388-6391
www.oregonstateparks.org

March 21, 2022

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301-1266

Re: Letter of support for Archaeological Investigations at the Gleason Pool Demolition, Grant County, Oregon

To Whom It May Concern,

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has secured funding for archaeological investigations related to the proposed City of John Day Gleason Pool demolation located next to the Kam Wah Chung and Company National Historic Landmark. The funding shall pay for all components (i.e. excavation, documentation, analysis, and curation) resulting from the activities proposed in the archaeological permit.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bradley
Eastern District Region Manager