Almost two-thirds of Portland’s buildings are old enough to be eligible for the historic register: 63% are 50 years old or more (and 35% are 75-plus).

Our last city historic resources inventory was done 25 years ago — before East Portland was even a part of the city.

Historic buildings embody the energy and materials of their age — and preserving them can be a form of sustainability and “recycling.”

Historic buildings, landmarks and places tell the story of who we were as a city, and who we are now. They are part of the many layers and lives that make Portland a unique city. And how we treat our built historic resources reveals a lot about our current values. For instance, we clearly value sustainability, and using our existing buildings to their full potential enables us to be efficient about our use of energy and resources. After all, historic buildings tell us stories about what was, but also embody the energy, materials and resources of earlier Portlanders, whose legacy we seek to uphold.

Portland has more than 670 individual historic landmarks, and 20 historic and conservation districts.