

**The original documents are located in Box 1, folder “Chemawa Historic Preservation” of the Bradley H. Patterson Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Balsegrett

comment w

Harson 10/27



Not usable for  
occupancy.

State Hist Soc has  
asked that I be declared  
a Nat Hist site

Park S. is making  
or will make evaluation

Detailed some guards  
furn + equipment; the  
moved out & stored  
plywood in windows



**MARION-POLK LEGAL AID SERVICE, INC.**

**1244 STATE STREET  
SALEM, OREGON 97301**

---

*Mary Pearson*

**TELEPHONE 581-5265**

*Home 362-8746*

Emil W. Hauser - Chairman, Historic Pres.  
g

Jeannette E. Hauser

Balser

Leis Mackenzie / Instructor, Counselor

HELP Center  
317 M Dr. Ave., S.E.  
U of M

Mpls. Mn. 55414

Karen Armstrong Planning Director  
Pomo Tribal & Economic Development District  
210 Faull Ave.  
Upland, Calif. 95482



Elayne Armstrong Lewis  
18002 Lassen Dr.  
Santa Ana, Ca. 92705

Ruth (Snyder) McKay Shoshone Wind River Wyo.  
105 Carter Dr.  
Bellingham, Wash 98225

Veronica M. Taylor - Nez Perce.  
Box 187  
Lapwai, Idaho 83540.

Chenaw School Board.  
(over)

Jim McKay  
105 Carter Dr  
Bellingham

WA. 98225

April <sup>206</sup> 733-7340  
~~off~~

Tony Rosenzweig - Area Office

Cherawana Indian School  
Salem Oregon

letter to Mt 10/15/76  
re Historic Preservation

---

Law Enforcement  
Fed Marshalls won't go in

---



MARION-POLK LEGAL AID SERVICE, INC.

1244 STATE STREET  
SALEM, OREGON  
97301

October 1, 1976

Mr. Francis Briscoe, Director  
Portland Area Office  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
1002 N.E. Holladay  
Portland, Oregon

In re Demolition of Chemawa Indian School Buildings

Dear Mr. Briscoe:

It has been called to our attention that bids were let for the demolition of the old Chemawa school buildings on October 1, 1976. It is the belief of some people, including alumni of Chemawa and the State Historic Preservation office that these buildings hold considerable historic and architectural identity to make them eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

According to PL-89-665, Sec. 106, and Executive Order 11593, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has an affirmative duty to nominate to the Secretary of the Interior all sites, buildings, districts, and objects under their jurisdiction or control that appear to qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In order to qualify for nomination "[t]he term 'historic preservation' includes the protection, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, or culture." With a history of being the oldest continuously operated Indian boarding school in the United States located on its present site outside Salem, Oregon, since 1880, it appears that Chemawa is eminently suited to such nomination.

After reading the federal statutes dealing with preservation of historic places there are several questions which deserve answer:

1. Was Chemawa ever nominated to the Secretary of the Interior for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?
2. Was there ever any attempt to utilize these buildings with renovations necessary to upgrade their safety?
3. Was an Environmental Impact Statement ever prepared, and if so, was it filed with the proper agencies?





Mr. Francis Briscoe, Cont.  
October 1, 1976  
Page Two

4. Was the State Historic Preservation office given the opportunity to review these statements?

Since the bids for demolition of the buildings was let today, we would appreciate an immediate response to these questions.

Very truly yours,

Mary Linda Pearson  
Law Clerk

MARION-POLK LEGAL AID SERVICE, INC.  
1244 STATE STREET  
SALEM, OREGON  
97301

October 1, 1976

Mr. Francis Briscoe, Director  
Portland Area Office  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
1002 N.E. Holladay  
Portland, Oregon

In re Demolition of Chemawa Indian School Buildings

Dear Mr. Briscoe:

It has been called to our attention that bids were let for the demolition of the old Chemawa school buildings on October 1, 1976. It is the belief of some people, including alumni of Chemawa and the State Historic Preservation office that these buildings hold considerable historic and architectural identity to make them eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

According to PL-89-665, Sec. 106, and Executive Order 11593, the Bureau of Indian Affairs has an affirmative duty to nominate to the Secretary of the Interior all sites, buildings, districts, and objects under their jurisdiction or control that appear to qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In order to qualify for nomination "[t]he term 'historic preservation' includes the protection, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, or culture." With a history of being the oldest continuously operated Indian boarding school in the United States located on its present site outside Salem, Oregon, since 1880, it appears that Chemawa is eminently suited to such nomination.

After reading the federal statutes dealing with preservation of historic places there are several questions which deserve answer:

1. Was Chemawa ever nominated to the Secretary of the Interior for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?
2. Was there ever any attempt to utilize these buildings with renovations necessary to upgrade their safety?
3. Was an Environmental Impact Statement ever prepared, and if so, was it filed with the proper agencies?



Mr. Francis Briscoe, Cont.  
October 1, 1976  
Page Two

4. Was the State Historic Preservation office given the opportunity to review these statements?

Since the bids for demolition of the buildings was let today, we would appreciate an immediate response to these questions.

Very truly yours,

Mary Linda Pearson  
Law Clerk



Cloudy tonight and Saturday morning coming sunny Saturday afternoon. Low night near 50; high Saturday in mid 60's. Chance of measurable precipitation 10 per cent tonight, 20 per cent Saturday. (Details)

# Capital Journal

88th Year No. 213 \*

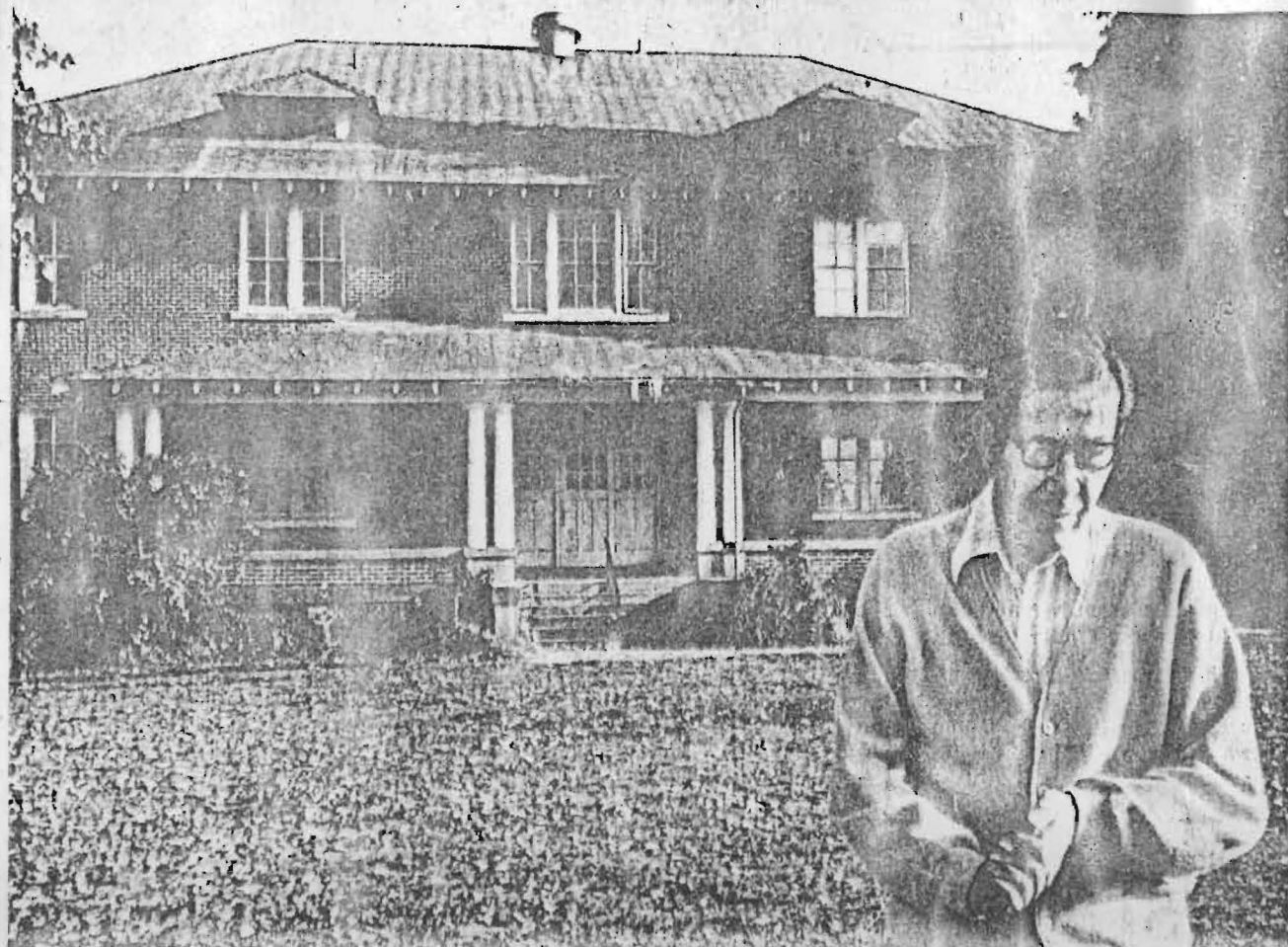
Salem, Oregon, Friday, October 8, 1976

36 Pages 20 Cents

NEW YORK (AP) — Dow Jones closing stock averages:	
30 Indus.	952.38 off 12.71
20 Trans.	209.56 off 1.46
15 Utils.	98.16 off 0.26
65 Stocks	301.04 off 3.01

See Page 5D

## Old Chemawa buildings may be preserved



Capital Journal photo by Robert DeGiulio

W.D. Battese stands in front of one of Chemawa's old buildings

By HANK BEALS  
Capital Journal Reporter

A little less than a year ago, several of the dormitories, classrooms and recreational buildings at Chemawa Indian School in Salem were declared unsafe and closed.

As a result, Congress appropriated \$10 million in July for the construction of a new school at Chemawa.

Today, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office is attempting to save the buildings, and have them placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bureau of Indian Affairs architects reported a year ago that several of the buildings on the campus were dangerous and recommended that they be closed or demolished.

State architects visited the school Sept. 28. They said they found some minor safety code violations, but said the buildings were structurally sound.

Paul Hartwig, a historic preservation coordinator with the state office, said a group from the Chemawa Alumni Association contacted his office during September about the proposed demolition of several of the older buildings at Chemawa.

"They were concerned about destroying part of their culture," Hartwig said. "They had even considered filing some sort of lawsuit to stop the demolition."

After a brief investigation and a tour of the school, the Historic Preservation Office determined that the school buildings were eligible for placement on the National Register.

Hartwig said his office contacted BIA in Portland and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in Washington, D.C., which will make the final decision.

The demolition work was discontinued last week until a decision can be

reached. Two buildings already have been demolished.

W. D. Battese, acting administrator at the school, said he did not object to the state's action in the matter. "I think it would be wonderful if the school could be designated a historical site and preserved as a monument," Battese said. "It would help preserve some of the culture that has grown here over the last 100 years."

Battese said he and other officials at the school were not aware that a federal law requires all federal agencies involved in federal reconstruction projects to file an environmental impact statement with the preservation office before demolition begins.

He said the school filed a statement with BIA, but not with the state offices. The law requires that the state preservation office be notified so it has an opportunity to study the site for historical value. However, there is no penalty for not complying with the law.

Battese said the cease order on demolition at the school will have no effect on the construction of the school's new facilities. The site for the new buildings is about a half-mile away from the present buildings.

According to Hartwig, the matter could be resolved within a month, depending on how soon the BIA files its statements with the national and state preservation offices. But it might take as long as a year, he added.

If the school is placed on the National Register, demolition will cease. The buildings will be left as they are until local and federal money is available for repairs and restoration.

Ownership of the buildings will remain with the BIA. If that agency decides it doesn't want them they will be declared surplus and the Department of the Interior will determine their future.