AVERY LODGE
BUILDING EVALUATION
WORKSHOP

October 16, 2017
MU Ballroom Room
Welcome and Introductions

• Who are we?
• What are our roles?
• Who else is in the room?
Roadmap

• Intentions and expectations for today’s workshop
• Criteria for evaluation
• Historical information on building and namesake
• Table discussions on building and namesake
Intentions and Expectations

• What is the intent of today’s workshop?
• What can you expect from this process?
• What we expect from our community during this process?
What happens next?

• Weeks 1-5:
  • Historical reports on the buildings and namesakes
  • Community engagement workshops to discuss the process and the four building names under review – Arnold Dining Center, Avery Lodge, Benton Hall and Annex, Gill Coliseum
  • Meetings with community stakeholder groups
• Weeks 6-9: Deliberation by workgroup, Architectural Naming Committee and President Ray
• Week 10: President Ray announces decision

• Full timeline available at http://leadership.oregonstate.edu/building-and-place-names
What happens next?

• What happens if we decide to rename a building?
  • OSU will engage in a process to select a new name for the building
  • The university will create permanent educational information so that current and future community members will be able to learn about the building’s previous name and namesake, how and why the decision to change the building’s name was made, and why the new name was chosen.
  • Permanent education could be in the form of a plaque, exhibit, website or other mediums.
What happens next?

• What happens if we decide **not to rename** a building?
  • The name of the building will remain
  • The university will create and place permanent educational information so that current and future community members will be able to learn about the building’s name and history of its namesake, why the name was evaluated, and why a decision was made to leave the name.
  • This permanent education could be in the form of a plaque, exhibit, website or other mediums.
How did we get here?

• National context
  • Conversations about race, exclusion, history, and reconciliation
  • Conversations about memorials, statues, buildings and names
  • States, cities, universities and colleges
How did we get here?

• Oregon State
  • Pre-2000s - Examining building and place names; renaming buildings
    • Articles exploring the origin of OSU building names
    • Buildings named for a variety of reasons – function, donors, alumni, students, faculty/staff
    • Long history of renaming buildings at Oregon State for a variety of reasons, including buildings under evaluation
  • 2000s – Concern regarding whether names reflect Oregon State’s values
  • 2015 – Committee to establish criteria for examination of building names
  • 2017 – Student demonstration regarding building names
  • 2017 – Process announced to evaluate the names of four buildings on Corvallis campus
How did we get here?

• Why examine the names of buildings? Why now?
  • The names of buildings speak to our core values as a public, land grant university serving the well being of the citizens of Oregon

• OSU’s core values:
  • Accountability
  • Diversity
  • Integrity
  • Respect
  • Social responsibility
Building and Place Name Evaluation Criteria

• Should a building be renamed because the “context” of an individual’s life and legacy is inconsistent with OSU’s contemporary mission and values?

• “Context” is evaluated by the following criteria:
  • Actions taken by an individual vs. viewpoints held by an individual
  • The individual's public vs. private persona
  • The progression of an individual’s viewpoints and life as a whole
  • Whether and how an individual’s actions and viewpoints aligned with OSU’s mission and OSU’s and society’s values at the time
  • How the current OSU community engages with the “context” of an individual’s life
Historical Review

• Conducted by a team of five scholars
  • Four historians, three from OSU and an emeritus professor from Lewis & Clark College; one sociologist from OSU

• Purpose
  • Gather and analyze historical evidence to explore, reveal, and contextualize the lives and viewpoints of the namesakes, and the histories of the buildings.
  • Not answering the question of whether to rename; providing history and context

• Process
  • Research in archives and our primary sources
  • Extensive documentation of sources
  • Oral histories, where available
History: Joseph C. Avery and Avery Lodge

• The life and legacy of Joseph C. Avery in connection to the Corvallis community and Oregon State University

• An evaluation of the claims that Avery was a proslavery Democrat who advocated racist and exclusionary causes

• The circumstances of the naming of Avery Lodge on the OSU campus and controversies over the Avery name in the broader Corvallis community
Joseph C. Avery, Corvallis, and the Origins of Oregon State University

• 1817: born in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania; Avery moves to Illinois in 1834.

• 1845: moves to Oregon and files a 640-acre land claim at the confluence of the Marys and Willamette Rivers.

• 1849: builds a store on his claim and surveys the site of a new town, Marysville, which he later renamed Corvallis.

Photo: Joseph Conant Avery, from the Portrait and Biographical Record of the Willamette Valley, Oregon (image is in the public domain)
Joseph C. Avery, Corvallis, and the Origins of Oregon State University

• 1858-1860: Avery serves on the Board of Trustees that chartered Corvallis College.

• 1868: The Oregon legislature selects Corvallis College to become the state’s new agricultural college.
  • Avery serves on the Board of Commissioners that selected the land grant lands, 1868-1870.
  • Avery serves on the college Board of Trustees, 1870s.
  • Avery and others select and purchase farmland for the college (“the College Farm”) in 1871, on which some of the campus now stands (Lower Campus).
Joseph C. Avery and the Democratic Party of Oregon

What was the Democratic Party of Oregon?

• It was the dominant political entity in Oregon during the 1850s.

• It was divided over the institution of slavery and its westward expansion.
  • Southern-born Democrats: pro-slavery in new federal territories in the West.
  • Northern-born “free soil” Democrats: anti-slavery in western territories, however the “free soil” should be open to white settlers only.
  • “Moderates” within the party: wanted to protect slavery where it already existed, but supported “popular sovereignty” – the principle that the people of the new western territories should determine for themselves whether they would adopt pro- or antislavery constitutions.
Joseph C. Avery and the Democratic Party of Oregon

How was Avery involved in the Democratic Party of Oregon?

• Avery rose to prominence in Oregon’s Democratic Party in the 1850s.
• He represented Benton County as a Democrat.
• Avery was not aligned with a particular faction; he was an opportunist who exploited divisions and tensions within the party over slavery.
Joseph C. Avery and the Democratic Party of Oregon

How was Avery involved in the divisions within the Democratic Party of Oregon during the 1850s and what did various Oregon newspapers have to do with that?

• “Salem Clique” (the “moderates”) – led by Asahel Bush, used his newspaper, the Oregon Statesman, to recruit and maintain members and attack any Democrats who disagreed with the Clique, including Avery
Joseph Avery’s Connection to the *Occidental Messenger* and its Successors

1) To what extent was Joseph Avery actually involved with the editing and publication of the *Occidental Messenger*?

2) What were the views of the *Occidental Messenger* and did these views reflect the personal views of Joseph Avery?

3) What involvement, if any, did Avery have with the *Democratic Crisis* and the suppressed *Oregon Union*?
To what extent was Joseph Avery actually involved with the editing and publication of the *Occidental Messenger*?

- The *Occidental Messenger* (1857-58), was an anti-Salem Clique newspaper that strongly advocated for slavery in Oregon in 1857.
- Avery’s name never appeared on the newspaper as editor or publisher; contemporary sources identified him as a central force behind its publication.
- Most primary and secondary historical evidence suggests that Joseph Avery owned the *Occidental Messenger* printing press and played a role in the newspaper’s formation.
What were the views of the *Occidental Messenger* and did these views reflect the personal views of Joseph Avery?

The *Occidental Messenger* was an “opposition” Democratic newspaper used to attack the Salem Clique and to unite opposition Democrats against it.

- The first two issues of the *Messenger* from 1857 were deeply pro-slavery.
- After Oregon adopted an anti-slavery constitution in 1857, the *Messenger* dropped its pro-slavery content.
- Some (including his enemies) claimed Avery was not truly pro-slavery, however he was opportunist who exploited divisions over slavery within the Democratic party.
What involvement, if any, did Avery have with the suppressed *Oregon Weekly Union*?

- After the *Occidental Messenger* stopped publishing, accusations were made that Avery was involved with a secessionist and pro-Confederate newspaper, the *Oregon Weekly Union*
- The federal government suppressed the *Oregon Weekly Union* in 1863 due to these views
- It is not possible to substantiate these accusations about Avery through currently available sources
OSU’s Avery Lodge

Photos: Avery Lodge, 1969 (P057:4179), News and Communication Services Photograph Collection, and Avery Lodge, photo by Jacquie Gamelgaard, Orange Media Network
OSU’s Avery Lodge

• The naming history of Avery Lodge:
  • In 1966, two new student cooperative living houses, Avery Lodge and Dixon Lodge, are named after Joseph C. Avery and his Corvallis co-founder, William F. Dixon.
  • Naming of Avery Lodge did not seem to commemorate Avery’s service to the university, but rather his role as a Corvallis “pioneer.”

• Avery Lodge served as a student cooperative through the 2014-15 academic year

• Remodeled and updated 2015-16
The Avery Naming Controversy in Corvallis

• In 2004, the members of the Corvallis School Board voted to name a new middle school after Joseph C. and Martha Avery.

• The Corvallis chapter of the NAACP wrote to the School Board protesting the decision to name the school after a “notorious racist” and advocate of slavery; historians supported the NAACP.

• The School Board reversed its original decision and chose to name the middle school after Linus Pauling.
Summary

• Co-founded Corvallis in the early 1850s
• Played major roles with Corvallis College
• Prominent politician who tried to benefit from divisions over slavery within the fractured Oregon Democratic Party in the 1850s
• Strong evidence supports connection to a pro-slavery newspaper
• Insufficient evidence to connect Avery to later secessionist and pro-Confederate newspapers in Oregon
• Previous naming controversy resulted in a Corvallis public school not being named for Avery and his wife
What happens next?

• Workshop plan
  • Intentions of RESPECT
  • Table introductions
  • Facilitated table conversations and gathering input
Intentions of RESPECT

• Intentions of RESPECT
  • Recognize your communication style
  • Examine your own perceptions and assumptions
  • Speak from your own experiences
  • Participate honestly / Pass openly
  • Engage in the learning process
  • Consider confidentiality, seek curiosity
  • Take responsibility for your actions
Table introductions

• Introduce yourself and why you came to this workshop today
• Note your community affiliation on sign-in sheet for purposes of evaluation only
Dialogue Session

• Facilitators at your tables will lead you in a dialogue
• Remaining time is allotted for dialogue
• You can also provide input on comments cards
Closing

• Note-takers will summarize input and it will be considered in evaluation

• Upcoming sessions:
  • October 17 – Benton Hall and Annex
  • October 19 – Gill Coliseum

• More information and full schedule available at:
  • http://leadership.oregonstate.edu/building-and-place-names