

BENTON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS CORNER RESTORATION PROGRAM

PURPOSE

Overseen by the Benton County Surveyor, the Corner Restoration Program restores and maintains all of the US Public Land Survey Corners in Benton County.

The program finds and restores survey corners with modern monuments, so that these corners are clearly marked in accordance with Oregon Revised Statutes.

These corners cannot be moved or relocated, so the Corner Restoration program also serves to ensure that the monuments are secure and able to be reset if they are disturbed.



What is a survey corner?

Survey corners, or monuments, are physical markers that indicate the boundary of property lines.

HISTORY

Recovery of the monuments via the Corner Restoration Program is driven by the Land Ordinance of 1785, enacted by the US Congress. This system designated rectangular surveys that divided the land into townships and sections.

In 1850, Congress passed the Donation Land Claim Act which provided land and surveys of these claims for settlers in Oregon who preceded the original rectangular system, protecting them until the claim they were given was granted a title.

In 1851, the Willamette Stone was established by James Freeman, a surveyor contracted to the federal government of the United States. This marked the intersection of the Willamette Meridian and the Willamette baseline and designated the original grid system of property boundaries that all descriptions of real property in Oregon and Washington are based on.

The Corner Restoration Program re-monuments the corners that designated these land claims and rectangular sections and ensures their lasting legacy.