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FRIENDS OF TIMBERLINE
 A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION TO PROMOTE
 PRESERVATION OF TIMBERLINE LODGE.

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 Write or call for membership information.

Additional resources available for purchase from Friends of Timberline are
 "The Builders of Timberline" DVD and "Timberline Lodge: A Guided Tour."

For more information, see
Timberline Lodge: The History, Art, and Craft of an American Icon
 by Sarah Baker Munro and
Timberline Lodge: A Love Story, Golden Jubilee Edition
 Edited by Jon Tullis.



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 under a special use permit.

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The Crafts of

TIMBERLINE LODGE



IRON ▲ WOOD ▲ FABRIC
a self-guided tour

In the beginning

Timberline Lodge, a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, was built and furnished between 1936 and 1938. Early in 1936, architects and administrators decided that the Lodge would be furnished with hand forged wrought iron, handmade wood furniture, hand woven fabrics and hand hooked rugs using three major design elements: pioneer heritage, Indian motifs and native plants and wildlife.



Three individuals hired by the WPA had a significant role in implementing these decisions. O.B. Dawson, a master blacksmith, oversaw the hand forging of ironworks in a WPA metal work shop in Portland. Similarly, Ray Neuffer supervised a WPA wood shop in Portland. A local interior designer, Margery Hoffman Smith, coordinated the interior furnishings of the Lodge. Women working under the Women's and Professional Division of the WPA wove upholstery and drapery materials, hooked rugs and sewed fabrics using designs by Mrs. Smith.

Most of the furniture was designed by Neuffer and Mrs. Smith. US Forest Service architects designed some of the furniture and most of the wrought iron straps and other decorative hardware in the Lodge. Dawson with Mrs. Smith created other significant wrought iron pieces. Lighting fixtures were a collaborative effort of a team that included Forest Service architects, Dawson, Neuffer, Mrs. Smith and Fred Baker from a Portland lighting company.



Main Lobby Timberline Lodge

Changes over time

Over the last seventy years, furniture has been made to replace damaged or missing pieces and reproductions and newly designed wrought iron items have been added to the Lodge over time. The wrought iron additions have been made by a second and third generation of craftsmen who have continued to make hand wrought iron work using techniques and finishes used by O.B. Dawson and handed down from one generation to the next.

Most original hand woven fabrics, hand sewn items and hand hooked rugs have been replaced. Upholstery and drapery fabrics in public areas are hand woven materials with patterns and colors in the spirit of the originals. Original rawhide in lamp shades and in chairs has also been replaced.

Lower Lobby Timberline Lodge



The Crafts of Timberline Lodge

This brochure highlights the handcrafted décor and furnishings in Timberline Lodge. Unless otherwise noted, all described items were crafted under the WPA project or subsequently replaced with replicas made using the same techniques. Each of the categories of crafts is arranged to reflect a tour that begins in the Lower Lobby, moves to the Main Lobby and ends at the Mezzanine.



Wrought Iron

The wrought iron for Timberline Lodge was created with hand held tools without welding, bolts or rivets.

- ▲ The andirons in each of the head house fireplaces in the Lower Lobby and Main Lobby (photo above) are made from recycled railroad rails as are the massive wrought iron boot scrapers in both lobbies
- ▲ The iron, wood and rawhide chairs in the Lower Lobby were originally designed to be used by skiers in wet ski gear
- ▲ The wrought iron gates to the Rachael Griffin Historic Exhibition Center and Coyote Den in the Lower Lobby were added in 1986
- ▲ The wrought iron gate to the Blue Ox Bar in the Lower Lobby was added in 1988 to provide visibility to the interior when the bar is closed
- ▲ Wrought iron floor lamps with rawhide shades are located in each of the seating areas around the hexagonal chimney in the Main Lobby
- ▲ The front door to the Lodge has wrought iron hardware and a ram's head door knocker (cover photo)
- ▲ The design of the wrought iron gates to the dining room in the Main Lobby includes a rattlesnake and pine cones together with stylized coyote heads and geometric Indian-like designs (photo at right)



Wood Features

- ▲ Some carved Indian-like designs in the doorway lintels in the arches in the Lower Lobby were taken from a Camp Fire Girls 1930s handbook
- ▲ The Douglas fir Barlow Room gates with wrought iron straps were added after 1938
- ▲ Note the curved post and lintel arches in the Lower Lobby and Main Lobby and the skill of the builders in the joinery of the posts and beams throughout the Lodge
- ▲ The six immense Ponderosa Pine columns in the Main Lobby were hand hewn by adz and broad ax
- ▲ Each of the 12 newel posts in the head house is carved in the shape of a different bird or animal from a recycled utility pole (photos below)



Furniture

Except as noted, the furniture is made of Douglas fir.

- ▲ The chair built for President Franklin D. Roosevelt for his use at the dedication of the Lodge in 1937 can be seen in the Rachael Griffin Historic Exhibition Center, Lower Lobby (photo above left)
- ▲ The wheelbarrow bench in the Lower Lobby with wrought iron and plank back and seat was originally located on the terrace (photo above right)
- ▲ The oversized Blue Ox Bar chairs, tables and bench were designed by US Forest Service architect Howard Gifford (photo below left)
- ▲ Each of the seating areas around the hexagonal chimney in the Main Lobby contains 3-sided angled Oregon white oak couches with hand woven upholstery and a hexagonal Oregon white oak coffee table (Main Lobby photo)
- ▲ The ram's head table in the Main Lobby has a base made up of two ram's heads, each carved from yellow cedar (photo right)
- ▲ Knotty pine writing desks with carved rosettes are located in the Main Lobby and Mezzanine
- ▲ Many of the tables and chairs in the Ram's Head Bar were moved from their original location in the ski grille (now the Barlow Room) when the ski grille was closed in 1984



Textiles

Originally, all of the rugs were hand hooked from recycled materials, the draperies and upholstery fabrics were hand woven and the guest room textiles were sewn and appliquéd by hand. Today, the replacement upholstery and drapery fabrics continue to be hand woven in patterns and colors in the spirit of the originals.

- ▲ Examples of several original hand hooked rugs can be found in the Lower Lobby (photo above left)
- ▲ Replaced hand woven upholstery fabrics can be seen in the Lower Lobby and the Main Lobby; replaced draperies hang in the Main Lobby and the Cascade Dining Room (photo above right)



Lighting Fixtures

- ▲ The ox yoke light fixtures that hang over the entrances to the Lower Lobby hallway and gift shop are made of vine maple and Douglas fir (photo above left)
- ▲ The two Barlow Room chandeliers are carved from wood and evoke the image of an Indian canoe
- ▲ Fourteen fixtures that resemble Indian drums hang in the Cascade Dining Room (photo above right)
- ▲ Three large hexagonal chandeliers hang in the Main Lobby, each with a fabric globe and cast iron band and suspended from the ceiling by wrought iron bars and chain (Main Lobby photo)