

## = Petersen Rock Garden =

Petersen Rock Garden , formerly Petersen 's Rock Garden and also known as the Petersen Rock Gardens , is a rock garden and museum on 4 acres ( 1 @. @ 6 ha ) , located between the cities of Bend and Redmond in Deschutes County , Oregon , United States . Rasmus Petersen , a Danish immigrant who settled in Central Oregon in the early 1900s , began constructing the garden in 1935 using rocks he found within an 85 @- @ mile ( 137 km ) radius of his family home . Petersen constructed detailed miniature castles , churches and other small buildings and monuments from a variety of rock types . He incorporated other design elements such as bridges , water features and natural landscaping . Petersen worked on the garden until his death in 1952 ; the garden has remained in his family 's care since then . The garden , considered a roadside attraction with novelty architecture , includes roaming peafowl and a museum with a gift shop that sells rocks .

In 2011 , Petersen Rock Garden was named one of Oregon 's Most Endangered Places by the Historic Preservation League of Oregon ( now known as Restore Oregon ) . In 2012 , accidental damage to one of the stone bridges by a contractor catalyzed an effort to document the garden using laser scanning and other technologies . The garden was closed temporarily in 2013 to undergo repair and review for listing on the National Register of Historic Places . Petersen has been praised for his creative work , and the garden has received a positive reception for its uniqueness and local significance . Listing on the National Register was achieved on October 30 , 2013 .

## = = Description = =

Petersen Rock Garden , considered a roadside attraction with " eclectic " novelty architecture , is located 3 miles ( 4 @. @ 8 km ) off U.S. Route 97 , 10 miles ( 16 km ) north of Bend and 7 miles ( 11 km ) south of Redmond . It contains dozens of " fanciful " and " intricately detailed " miniature buildings , including castles , churches and cottages , constructed from agate , jasper , lava , malachite , obsidian , petrified wood and thundereggs . The 4 @- @ acre ( 1 @. @ 6 ha ) grounds also contain roaming peafowl and a small museum with a gift shop that sells rocks , including crystals , fossils and semiprecious gemstones . The museum features a fluorescent room with miniature castles constructed from manganese , tungsten , uranium and zinc that glow in the dark . Petersen Rock Garden is open every day from 9 a.m. until closing time , which varies depending on the season . As of 2009 , admission is \$ 4 @. @ 50 for adults , at self @- @ pay stations . It is not a member of the Oregon Museums Association .

## = = History = =

Rasmus Petersen , a Danish immigrant who settled in Central Oregon in the early 1900s at age 17 , began constructing the rock garden on the grounds of his family home in 1935 . The " eccentric " farmer used rocks that he found within an 85 @- @ mile ( 137 km ) radius . He attempted to evoke his native country with his designs , but also created monuments to the United States , including a concrete American flag and a 7 @- @ foot ( 2 @. @ 1 m ) replica of the Statue of Liberty . Petersen incorporated other design elements such as bridges , water features ( lagoons , lily ponds and streams ) and natural landscaping . He worked on the garden until his death in 1952 ; the garden has remained in his family 's care since then . A bronze plaque in front of the Statue of Liberty replica reads : " Enjoy yourself : it 's later than you think . " Petersen 's Rock Garden became known as Petersen Rock Garden in the mid @- @ 1950s . At its height , supported by traffic from the Old Bend @- @ Redmond Highway , the garden drew approximately 150 @, @ 000 visitors a year .

The garden is managed and owned by Petersen 's grand @- @ stepdaughter , Susan Caward , and her family , who has struggled to maintain the lawns and dozens of sculptures . In 2011 , the garden was named one of Oregon 's Most Endangered Places by the Historic Preservation League of Oregon ( now known as Restore Oregon ) . The " Endangered Places " program raises awareness of the state 's " historic treasures in need of the advocacy and support to save them from demise " . According to the League , the deteriorating garden needed " maintenance , a business plan and a

publicity campaign to ensure stewardship and funds are available to overcome vandalism , theft , and condition issues " . In 2012 , a contractor accidentally damaged one of the stone bridges , catalyzing an effort to document the garden using laser scanning and other technologies . The Portland @-@ based company i @-@ Ten measured and archived the site 's geospatial data , allowing potential future rebuilding to match the original construction .

The garden was closed from February 1 through May 24 , 2013 to undergo repair and review for listing on the National Register of Historic Places . The family and ten volunteers worked for nearly six months to restore the grounds . The cleanup process included the removal of dead vegetation and junk from outbuildings , and an estate sale that included items from before Petersen 's death . On May 25 , 2013 , Petersen Rock Garden hosted its " grand reopening " . The opening was attended by members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs , who sang and blessed the garden . Caward has considered opening a cafe on the grounds , and turning the family home into a bed and breakfast . Owen Evans , a friend of the family who has assisted with the restoration , has also envisioned a museum reorganization , a small amphitheater to host outdoor concerts and other events , and additional rock sculptures mimicking Petersen 's style .

Petersen Rock Garden was added to the National Register of Historic Places on October 30 , 2013 .

= = Reception = =

According to the Northwest Digital Archives , photographer Myron Symons typed the following description of the garden during the 1940s within a photo album that is now part of University of Washington Libraries , Special Collections :

Miniature castles , picturesque fountains and beautiful terraces within the grounds pictured here , on the Rasmus Peterson [ sic ] place between Bend and Redmond , Oregon , tell their own stories , but unless the visitor inspects the grounds carefully , and with a questing heart , he will fail to read the strange stories told by the ancient stones used in the construction .... Look twice at that bit of petrified wood , for it is a remnant of a great redwood forest that once flourished in Central Oregon .... Examine that banded rock carefully : It is a bit of a thunderegg hatched in the lavas of old Oregon .... Feel the cool surface of those glass @-@ like rocks : They are volcanic glasses melted in plutonic fires .... Trace the growth rings on that bit of petrified sequoia : They tell a story of weather born of oceans that swept over beaches now elevated into Oregon mountains . Enjoy the blooms of these rock gardens , but do not overlook the stories of the rocks .

Petersen Rock Garden has attracted visitors from around the world . In 2009 , The Oregonian 's Terry Richard wrote that Petersen 's work is " more than a half @-@ century old , but it 's still amazing " . The Historic Preservation League of Oregon considers the garden a " real gem " for its local significance and its " unique expression of mid @-@ century roadside architecture " . Moon Publications described it as a " full @-@ fledged rock fantasy " and a " rock garden to end all rock gardens " , with a " funky " museum . Via , the online magazine for the American Automobile Association 's West Coast club , called the garden " folksy " and Petersen " imaginative " for his work .

The garden has inspired at least one other Oregon resident to construct rock sculptures . Following his visit to Petersen Rock Garden in the early 1980s , Ira McKissen built nearly a dozen castles on the terraces of his Rowena home ; some of them have since been relocated to his daughter 's house , located 5 miles ( 8 @.@ 0 km ) west of The Dalles along the Historic Columbia River Highway ( U.S. Route 30 ) . In 2013 , Pennan Brae released a music video for the song " Don 't Know Nothing ' Bout Love " , which was filmed at Petersen Rock Garden .